

# MFB Annual Draws 3,000



Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz spoke to reporters during a major news conference held at MFB's annual meetings. Newly re-elected MFB President Elton Smith was described to the press by Butz as, "... one of America's great farm leaders."

"American farmers cannot feed the world alone."

Speaking at Michigan Farm Bureau's annual meeting in Grand Rapids, Elton R. Smith listed land use planning, food reserves and world trade, as well as world food shortage problems as issues currently affecting Michigan farmers.

According to Smith, after last month's World Food Conference, "Many people are convinced that American agriculture must feed the world."

"I believe that we as American farmers cannot feed the world alone. We can help, and as American farmers, we are willing to help, but we must be given incentive to operate," the farm leader said.

Land use planning, Smith said, will be one of the greatest environmental issues of this decade.

"We must decide if we want local control to remain. If so, we must be willing to use that authority effectively, otherwise we will probably get federal standards for states," he added.

Opposing government held food reserves, Smith called them a disguise to return government interference into the market system.

On world trade, the Kent County dairyman emphasized the economic interdependence of nations. This, said Smith, makes world trade essential.

"We must recognize that some three million Americans owe their livelihood to our exports. More

than 20 percent of American farm income is derived from sales abroad," he noted.

To encourage world trade, Smith called for passage of the Trade Reform Act. "This act has been stalled in Congress for nearly two years. Without this legislation, our negotiators lack the authority to make agreements in trade negotiation."

"It is only through these negotiations that we will keep present markets and open new ones. If the United States does not, some other countries will take the markets," Smith added.

Farm Bureau members and delegates left Grand Rapids wondering how this year's annual meeting could be topped.

A highlight was U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz address at the annual banquet. In his "tell it like it is" style spiced with humor, Secretary Butz brought the message home that, "If there is no profit in food, there will be no food for people."

Other keynote speakers at annual meeting were: Governor William G. Milliken; Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Mary S. Coleman; and Dr. John Hannah, Deputy Secretary General of the UN's World Food Conference.

A surprise honor was a telegram from President Gerald R. Ford, extending greetings and best wishes for a successful meeting. President Ford has been a member of the Kent County Farm Bureau since 1946.

## On MFB Board

# Gary Nye is New Member

Elton R. Smith of Caledonia, Kent County dairy farmer who has headed Michigan Farm Bureau since 1964, was re-elected as president of MFB Friday, December 13. The action took place during the reorganizational meeting of the 16-member board in Grand Rapids, following the close of the 55th annual meeting, December 10-13.

Also re-elected were Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, vice-president, and John Laurie, Cass City, third member of the board's executive committee.

Earlier on Friday, voting delegates also re-elected Larry DeVuyst of Ithaca, to represent District 8, including the counties of Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw. They also re-elected Richard Wieland of Ellsworth, representing District 10-Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties. Re-elected as directors-at-large were Walter Frahm of Frankenmuth and James Sayre of Belleville.

Newly-elected was Gary Nye of Jonesville in Hillsdale County,



Gary Nye

representing young farmers on the Michigan Farm Bureau board. Nye, 27, operates an 800-acre dairy farm which has been in the family for four generations. He has served on the Hillsdale County board of directors and was first vice-chairman of MFB's young farmer committee this past year. Nye received his Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy from Michigan State University in 1970.

Other officers re-elected were: William Wilkinson, East Lansing, secretary; Max D. Dean, Okemos, treasurer and chief financial officer, and Robert E. Braden, Byron, was reappointed administrative director and assistant secretary.

## Trade Meet attended In Washington

An address by President Gerald Ford was a highlight at the recent "American Conference on Trade". Representing Michigan Farm Bureau at the trade meeting were Elton Smith, president, Dean Pridgeon, vice president, Al Almy, legislative counsel and Edward Powell, vice president of Michigan Elevator Exchange, an MFB affiliate company.

Held in Washington D.C., the conference featured appearances by Secretary of State Kissinger, Secretary of the Treasury Simon and House and Senate leaders.

The all-day affair included a morning briefing session in the Senate caucus room with U.S. Ambassador of Trade Negotiations Eberle and congressional leaders.

The conference was sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation and 17 other independent, non-governmental organizations to promote congressional support for the newly enacted Trade Reform Bill.

Farm Bureau leaders considered the conference significant in securing final passage of the Bill.

## In Lansing

# MAFC Meets

"Most Co-ops are in better shape than ever," according to a prominent mid-west banker.

Speaking at the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives' annual meeting on December 3, Burgee Amdahl, President of the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives went on to note that Co-ops need to be aggressive and progressive but that progress must be made in a sound manner.

Over 200 attended the MAFC's all-day affair with Chairman Ron Stebbins calling the meeting to order.

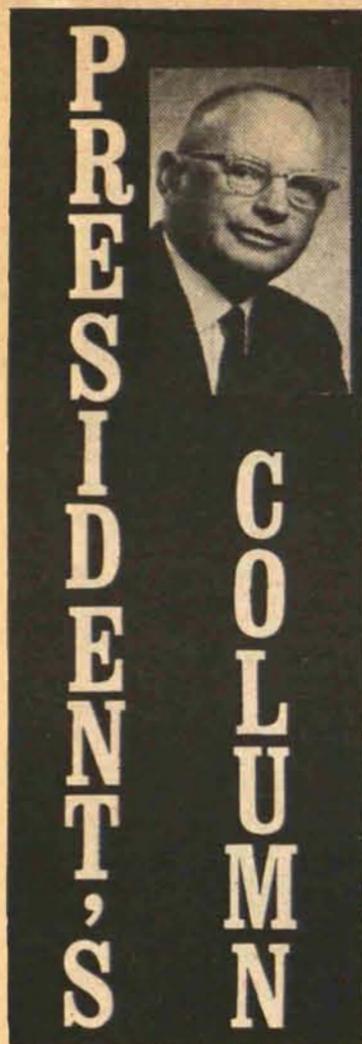
A luncheon featured Michigan State Senator Charles O. Zollar as speaker. The chairman of the Appropriations Committee spoke on "Financing Michigan Government".

Also on the program was Ronald Knutson, administrator, Farmer

Cooperative Service, Washington. Knutson discussed "New Horizons for Michigan Cooperatives".



Ron Stebbins, MAFC manager, speaks during one day MAFC Annual in December.



# Membership Drive Vital

All of us who participated in our Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting could not help returning to our farms a little "puffed up." We heard a lot of nice things about how influential and respected our organization is, and we were very proud of these tributes. They meant something pretty special, coming personally from our Governor, our Secretary of Agriculture, and a telegram message from the President of the United States.

It would be easy, after such gratifying recognition, to go back home and rest on our laurels. Lest we let that happen, I think we should bring ourselves back down to reality with some important facts.

First is a reminder that the tributes we received were underlined, emphasized, and italicized with the phrase: "membership strength." Without that membership strength, we would not have been described as influential by our state's and nation's leaders. We must maintain that membership strength if we are to maintain our influence and respect.

Membership is the vital life-blood of our organization. No matter what programs we initiate, a strong membership is necessary to realize success. We have seen what can happen to organizations which do not have that strength.

Secondly, we must face the fact that we will be dealing with a Congress and a state legislature which may not be as receptive to our policies as they have in the past. There will be many new legislators in both our state and national

capitols who do not share our philosophies and our views on issues. There will be those who will advocate price controls, export controls, and government-held food reserves, just to mention a few.

Secretary Butz, in his address, referred to our record of continuous membership growth in recent years. The fact that a man in his position is aware and impressed with the growth of our organization is indicative of its importance. He thanked us for our strong policy stands which have helped to keep government out of the farming business.

He reminded us that food consumers speak louder in the legislative halls than food producers. This emphasizes the pressing need for us, as an organization and as individuals, to do a real job in the areas of information and education. We will have to work hard to educate consumers that it is in their best interest to have agriculture at full capacity. We must put forth a concerted effort to educate our lawmakers to some basic economic facts of life, that a healthy agriculture is vital to the nation's welfare, and that the farming industry must remain unchained if it is to feed the nation and have enough left over to help feed the hungry of the world.

Yes, it was gratifying to receive such recognition as we had at our annual meeting. Let it serve—not to lull us into self-satisfied contentment—but to stimulate us to be even stronger, in numbers and positive action, in meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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## DONNA

### A Peek Backstage

The "backstage" view of Michigan Farm Bureau's 55th annual meeting was much different than the "out-front" scene. Delegates who were impressed with a smooth-running four-day, three-night meeting would have been surprised, and probably amused, that behind the scenes, things got a bit chaotic at times.

Regardless of the months of hardwork and minute-by-minute scripting prior to the meeting—"the best laid plans" really do go astray. There are many split-second decisions to be made which, if wrong, could blow the image of our respected organization, both with the members and the public.

Like-how do you tell 1500 eager members and the press (who had doubts that he dared enter Grand Rapids) that Secretary Butz was fogged in on his way to the annual banquet?

Or-how do you diplomatically tell an aggressive cameraman who keeps sticking his head in front of your camera that—gee, we'd sure like to get a good shot for our Farm News?

Or-how do you keep your cool when an innocent, but nearsighted, delegate reads "rest" instead of "press" and walks into a recording session?

Or-when the electrical outlet your slide projector is plugged into goes dead before the program starts, do you stop your frantic search during the invocation or use those precious few seconds to locate a live one?

Prayer, we've found, does help. It separates the fog so the

Secretary's plane can land. It insures that slides, taken that morning and developed in a bathroom-converted-to-darkroom that afternoon and needed for a program that night, turn out fine. It keeps temperamental tape recorders humming and nervous projectionists punching the button on cue.

And it enables us to say, when the adjournment gavel sounds, "This has been the best one yet!"

####  
Last month, I told you about my fruitless search for a Revolutionary War heroine to borrow her name for the duration of the membership drive — in keeping with this year's Project 75-Building Spirit for '76 theme.

One reader, Fern Wilcox of Flushing, was kind enough to pass along a couple of suggestions. One was Mary Ludwig Hays, nicknamed Molly Pitcher because she carried water for her husband and other soldiers in the battle of Monmouth. Another was Margaret Corbin who, upon the death of her husband in the attack on Fort Washington, commanded his cannon until she was seriously wounded.

Since I'm better qualified to carry water than fire a cannon—Molly Pitcher it will be. It's been my privilege to "carry water" to the troops in two of my assigned counties and optimism for an early victory reigns supreme!

####  
May the New Year be filled with success, fulfilling achievements, and happiness for you and yours.

## Vermillion Cited for Distinguished Service

Former Michigan Farm Bureau insurance executive, Nile L. Vermillion, was honored for "distinguished service to agriculture" by the Michigan Farm Bureau December 12.

Vermillion was presented the award at the annual banquet held during MFB's four-day annual meetings in Grand Rapids in December.

He was Executive Vice President of Farm Bureau Insurance Group of Michigan from its founding in 1949 until his retirement earlier this year.

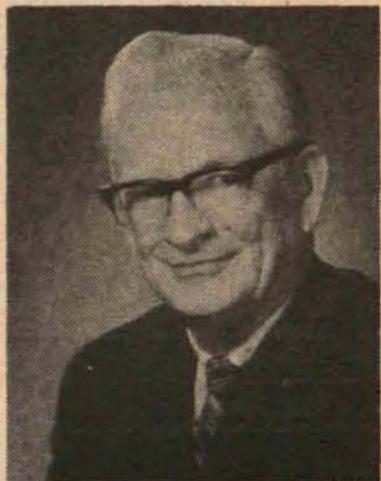
In presenting the award, Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith said, "All too few people fulfill their own personal dreams, and it is a selected handful of persons who can make the dreams of others come true.

"Nile was always well aware that dreams are very personal and very fragile. He uncovered those personal, immediate insurance needs of Michigan's farm community and fulfilled them," Smith added.

During his 25 year career with Farm Bureau Insurance, Vermillion created four companies to deal with farmers' insurance needs: Farm Bureau Mutual In-

urance Company of Michigan in 1949, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan in 1951, Community Service Insurance Company in 1962, and Community Service Acceptance Company in 1968.

Michigan Farm Bureau's distinguished service to agriculture awards have been presented since 1956 to outstanding leaders for dedicated service and leadership to agriculture.



Nile L. Vermillion

## Policeman Dies

# Family Gets Help

In the midst of a lively and successful annual meeting many MFB delegates and members witnessed tragedy on the streets of Grand Rapids Thursday night December 12.

At 10 p.m. Grand Rapids Patrolman Herman Gloe, 32, was shot and killed during a burglary attempt at a shop in the next block from the Pantlind Hotel, annual meeting headquarters.

Several MFB members either heard the shots from their hotel rooms or saw the suspect flee the scene on foot. The suspect was listed in critical condition in Grand

Rapids hospital with seven bullet wounds.

Patrolman Gloe left a wife, a son, 6, and a daughter, 3.

The next day MFB delegates on the floor of the convention took up a collection for the Gloe family. According to Grand Rapids Patrolman Tom Stevens, "I was working the desk when two men came up to me and said, 'even though we're from out of town we wanted to help, so we took up a collection.'"

The \$308 will go to a memorial fund for David and Kimberly Gloe's education.

## MOVING?

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Big Turnout

# FBS, FPC Hold Annuals



Farmers Petroleum and Farm Bureau Services Annual Meetings attracted record numbers of members and patrons.

Some 700 to 800 members and patrons of Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum were at the Grand Rapids civic center when Executive Vice President Donald R. Armstrong reported record fiscal '73-'74 sales for both cooperatives during their annual meetings in December.

Armstrong cautioned that the sales dollar volume increases, while representative of the strength and viability of the supply cooperatives, also reflected current inflation, so that earnings may be somewhat distorted. Armstrong also said, however, that with very few exceptions there was solid growth in unit sales as well as volume.

During the Farm Bureau Services management report, Armstrong said, "All of us who participated in the activities of Farm Bureau Services as patrons, managers or in other ways can feel proud of this outstanding financial record. We can be proud of the fact that not only did we achieve another record-breaking year, but we did it in spite of the most adverse circumstances.

"We've come a long way from those deficit periods we've experienced in the past. As a result of our labors, we have more profits to reinvest in the future of Michigan agriculture. We can offer improved service to farmers with modern facilities and equipment.

"We have developed plans for the next five years that will continue our growth pattern."

Farm Bureau Services recorded record sales of 230.3 million dollars in fiscal 1973-74, a 64% increase over the previous year.

Armstrong credited dealers, employees, and the cooperation of the farmers themselves with the fact that adequate supplies of farm materials were available during periods of severe shortage.

All of those people, plus the strength of the nationwide cooperative system was necessary to beat the petroleum shortage which reached its peak during the fiscal reporting period. Even though the Farmers Petroleum sales volume of 19.5 million dollars was almost seven million dollars higher than the previous year, much of the increase was directly attributed to inflation, since liquid gallonage was actually down from the previous year because of allocations. Farmers Petroleum had a net margin of over \$900,000.

Just getting the fuel for agriculture was the major problem, Armstrong noted. He lauded the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives in which Farmers Petroleum is represented for helping secure top priority on fuel for agricultural application.

Farmers Petroleum had to make some sacrifices in view of the allocation situation. "While competitors moved to increase

their profit margins," said Armstrong, "F.P.C. stuck to its major objective of securing adequate supplies to meet the needs of our farmer customers. Local dealers closed their retail outlets, foregoing higher profit margins, to serve what they considered their primary customers.

"It all comes back to the same thing: farmer-owned-and-directed cooperatives are the ones with the first and foremost concern for the needs and well-being of farmers, especially when the chips are down."

In its election of directors all incumbents were re-elected.

In the civic center's exhibition hall during the two-day affair, a record crowd enjoyed the carnival atmosphere of the Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Product Show. According to officials in attendance, "Showplace '74" was "the best ever." Professional entertainer Harry Jarkey from Detroit kept the crowd laughing while they enjoyed the displays and activities. One Farm Bureau Services official was quoted as saying, "Our goals in putting on 'Showplace' are to have our members and patrons learn something, have a good time, and go home with a favorable image of Farm Bureau Services, Farmers Petroleum, and our suppliers. The feedback we're getting tells us that we have accomplished those goals."

# FB Women Meet In Grand Rapids

"People today do not want to be involved. And where there is no concern for the common good, there will be common bad," Judge Mary Coleman, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, predicted at the annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women, December 11 in Grand Rapids.

Michigan Farm Bureau Women's annual meeting was held in conjunction with MFB's annual meeting.

Judge Coleman's address was a highlight of FB Women's activities which ranged from Chairman Mrs. Richard Wieland's annual report to presentation of County recognition awards.

Judge Coleman spoke to the Farm Bureau Women in the Black and Silver Room of the Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium on the topic of "Morality at the Crossroads."

She was not there to give a history lesson, explained the judge, but she capsuled events of the last 40 years leading up to the state of morality today.

"The late Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said, 'It is not enough to know where we stand but where we are going,'" said Judge Coleman.

"The past four decades have let us witness an unprecedented series of crises and has left us reeling. What is happening to every body?"

"The chain of events has led to flotsam and jetsam children

(children wandering around living ad hoc), free-swinging sex, the non-family, divorce, living together, a rejection of mutual responsibility, use of drugs and a widespread disdain of patriotism," claimed Judge Coleman.

"We are living in a critical age and it is the women who can mold change," concluded Judge Coleman.



Mrs. Richard Wieland, Women's Committee Chairman, calls MFB Women's Annual Meeting to order.

# Young Farmers Choose Queen, Discussion Winner



Janis Marie Sanford, 1974 Michigan Farm Bureau Queen.

A 20-year-old, dark-haired beauty from Jackson County, Janis Marie Sanford, was crowned Michigan Farm Bureau Queen Thursday, December 12, at annual meeting in Grand Rapids. A third year student at Michigan State University, the new queen was born and raised on a dairy farm and met her husband, Neal, while showing cows at the county fair.

Queen Janis, who lives at 8069 North Parma Road, Parma, was picked from a field of 34 contestants representing county Farm Bureau units throughout the state. She was Jackson County Farm Bureau's candidate and during her reign will represent the over-60,000 family members of MFB at several events, including the state fair. Her first official appearance will take place at the American Farm Bureau Federation's national convention in New Orleans, January 6-10.

Runner-up in the state queen contest was 19-year-old Cheryl A. Schlicker of rural Bay City. The daughter of Mr and Mrs Howard Schlicker, she is the secretary of Dow Chemical Company and attends Delta College.

In other young farmer activities, Robert C. Dean, a dairy farmer from Hillsdale, won the "discussion meet." Discussing the topic, "what should be the role of government in agriculture in the future," Dean talked his way to victory through semi-finals and finals in the annual contest, and will represent MFB at the AFBF convention in New Orleans.

The discussion meet and queen contest have been featured at-

tractions at annual meeting for the past several years. The programs receive active participation at the county, district and state levels, and are used to surface and develop leadership qualities of young farm men and women between the ages of 17 and 31.

Both Queen Janis and Robert Dean will receive expense-paid trips to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in New Orleans.



Bob Dean, discussion meet winner.

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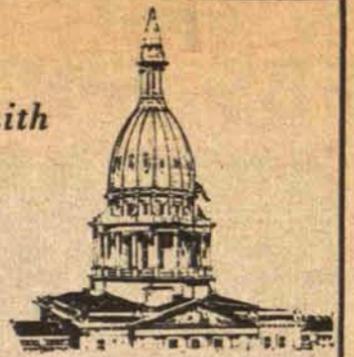
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# CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

## The New Legislature



January 8, 1975 will be the first session of the new 78th Legislature. It is a new Legislature in many ways with many new faces as a result of the election on November 4 and the retirement of many longtime legislators and others in state government. The Democratic party will control both Houses of the Legislature with 66 Democrats in the House of Representatives and 44 Republicans. In the Senate there are 24 Democrats and 14 Republicans. This means a different committee make-up with new chairmen from the majority party. The leadership has changed. Representative William Ryan of Detroit, longtime Speaker of the House, was re-elected but did not desire to continue as Speaker. As a result, the Democratic party has elected Representative Bobby Crim of Davison as the new Speaker.

Leadership in the Senate will be headed by a young man, former Representative Wm. Fitzgerald, Jr. of Detroit.

Leadership in the minority party has also changed. In the House, Representative Dennis Cawthorne has been elected as the minority leader replacing former Representative Smart, who retired this year. In the Senate the minority leadership position is held by Senator Davis of Gaylord replacing Senator Zaagman who was defeated.

The powerful Senate Appropriations Committee will be headed by Democratic Senator Hart from Saginaw, replacing Republican Senator Zollar from Benton Harbor.

In the House, the Appropriations Committee is being headed by Representative Jacobetti from Negaunee, replacing Representative Copeland, Wyandotte, who was defeated in the Primary.

The final appointments to the 33 House committees have not yet been made. Appointments are completed for the 14 Senate committees. There are also four joint committees between the Senate and House.

During the 77th session of the Legislature just completed there was a total of nearly 1500 Senate Bills introduced, over 2320 House Bills introduced, about 450 Senate Resolutions, 35 Senate Joint Resolutions, nearly 450 Senate Concurrent Resolutions, about 440 House Resolutions, 37 House Joint Resolutions, about 575 House Concurrent Resolutions, making a grand total of about 3820 bills introduced, which when added to all the resolutions made a grand total of about 5807 issues, which had to be considered by the Legislature. All bills die with the adjournment of the 77th Legislature and introduction of new bills for the 78th Legislature will begin as soon as the Legislature convenes.

Farm Bureau's record in the 77th Legislature was exceedingly good with many major pieces of legislation passed that were consistent with Farm Bureau policies. Some of these included the following:

### TAXATION

A major piece of legislation that has been sought by farmers for some years was finally passed, known as PA 116, Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, providing a voluntary system for farmers to receive major tax relief in return for their willingness to maintain their land in agricultural uses. Farm Bureau not only was involved in writing the final legislation, but was its major supporter. Farm Bureau is now represented on the Advisory Committee to the Land Use

Agency. Procedures and regulations are nearly completed with applications expected to be ready by the latter part of February.

Michigan Farm News has published numerous articles on the details on this act (see the official brochure reprinted in the December issue). Many county Farm Bureaus are planning special meetings for land owners to become acquainted with the opportunities under the act. This legislation was preceded by the enactment of another major "breakthrough" act, which brings to Michigan the concept of limiting property tax to a percentage of household income. Farm Bureau supported amendments to assure that this legislation would apply not only to the farm household but to the entire farm. This act passed in 1973, however, due to misinterpretation of the intent of the act by the Treasury Department, it was necessary to pass HCR 402 in 1974 in order to assure landowners that the act would apply to farmland. In many cases this tax reform program has meant cutting farm taxes in half or more, again dependent upon the household income.

Other major tax reforms included raising income tax exemptions, increasing revenues to local government from state swamplands and several assessment reforms. One tax reform important to farmers resulted in changing the gas tax refund period from a six month period to one year. Another major tax reform was the creation of a Tax Tribunal, providing a system for property tax appeals independent of the State Tax Commission. Under the new system that went into effect this past fall the Tax Commission will have to prove its point of view as well as the property tax owner. Farm Bureau supported this legislation, which also provides that appeals can be made very easily with no cost for most property taxpayers.

### ENVIRONMENT

A great deal of environmental legislation was passed including an act to control serious erosion and

sedimentation from highways, pipelines, and residential and commercial developments. Farm Bureau supported this but also supported a delay in its application to agriculture and then this past year supported another bill which clarifies the legislation making it very clear that it does not apply to regular agricultural tillage practices.

Water pollution standard laws were updated to permit implementation of federal requirements by state agencies. Amendments to the air pollution act were introduced in an effort to exempt "natural farm odors" and one major legislative battle was the retention of farmers drainage rights remaining under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

Important amendments were made to the Horton Trespass Act including the inclusion of ATVs, snowmobiles, etc. Several amendments were made to the litter laws including increasing penalties and making the owner of an automobile liable for litter thrown therefrom, etc. The Trespassers Liability Act was also updated making landowners exempt from suit when people are on the land for recreational purposes.

Another act important to farmers will protect farmland from unsound Corps of Engineers wastewater programs.

### MARKETING RIGHTS

At the beginning of the past session the Marketing Rights bill was signed into law. It has proved that it can do what was intended by making it possible for cooperative commodity organizations to organize fruit or vegetable growers and bargain for prices and other terms of sale prior to the season. It has worked perfectly in two crops, however, the opposition of processors and others to the act continues to be strong. They are making every effort to kill the basic legislation through suits in various courts, including Circuit Court, Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court. There will be a fight to maintain this basic right of producers. Other states are using

our act as a model. This is why the huge processor conglomerates are moving in on Michigan to try to kill such legislation before it spreads throughout the country for the use of other farmers.

Amendments to the Bean Commission and the creation of a Beef Commission were an aid to the marketing of those commodities.

### OTHER LEGISLATION

This included major changes in education financing by the passage of the "equal yield" concept guaranteeing school districts \$38 yield per mill even though the valuation may be so low that the revenue would not be that much. This basic change will result in additional school finance legislation. The state share of the cost of this legislation has been increased dramatically. Farm Bureau has been one of the leaders in this area.

Numerous appropriations important to farmers have been successfully maintained including those for extension service, experimental station, plant science building, 4-H, FFA, etc. During the session there were literally dozens of other pieces of legislation having to do with various agricultural matters. Major labor legislation, including passage of the MI OSHA bill bringing some control within the state. The prevention of mandatory overtime requirements for farmers was successful this year and several other bills contrary to farmer interests such as mandatory unemployment insurance, so-called field sanitation requirements, etc., were not enacted.

Exports were given a shot in the arm by the creation of a Michigan export office in Brussels and Tokyo, and as a result, Michigan exports have risen. Major progress was made in updating the ports in Michigan, especially the dredging of the Saginaw port area.

The above is only a very limited report of state legislative successes. In addition there was much legislation not in the best interest of agriculture that was not adopted. Additional reports will follow in future issues.

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HOME MEAT CURING AND SAUSAGE FORMULAS

## White House Yule Tree



Mardee [left] and Ed Cole look over White House Christmas tree just before cutting December 4. The Coles, Tuscola County Farm Bureau members, earned the right to present the tree at the White House by becoming the National Christmas Tree Association's National Champions for 1974. With the Coles is Quina Garner who donated the 20 foot concolor fir which was displayed in the Blue Room of the White House during the Christmas season. The Coles did not take a tree from their own Ed-Mar Tree Farm to Washington because their 175 acre farm had no trees tall enough to meet White House requirements.

# NATIONAL NOTES

# The 93rd Congress

Albert A. Almy

As this column is being written for the January issue of Michigan Farm News, the 93rd Congress is nearing adjournment. Since the November election recess, Congress has considered several pieces of major legislation of interest to all sectors of the economy.

### TRADE REFORM

Of the issues still needing Congressional approval before the 93rd Congress adjourns, trade reform is uppermost on the priority list. On December 11, 1973, the House passed the Trade Reform Act providing the President with authority for new trade negotiations, increased domestic relief from disruption caused by imports, action against foreign unfair trade practices, extending nondiscriminatory treatment to imports from additional countries and granting tariff preferences to imports from developing countries.

Following House approval of the bill, it was referred to the Senate

Finance Committee for further action. However, the bill was not reported from the Finance Committee until November 20, 1974, because of insistence from some Senators that it contain provisions to liberalize the emigration of Jewish citizens from the U.S.S.R. Senate floor debate on the bill began December 11 and approval to the measure was given on December 13.

The Trade Reform Act is now in Conference Committee to reconcile the differences that exist between the House and Senate passed versions. Michigan Congresswoman Martha Griffiths is serving as one of the House conferees. Although the Congress is expected to adjourn within the next few days, it is expected that agreement will be reached on the Trade Reform Act and it will be sent to President Ford for his signature. Farm Bureau at all levels has been active in supporting the passage of a Trade Reform Bill by the 93rd Congress.

### CARGO PREFERENCE

On December 16, final Congressional approval was given to a Cargo Preference Bill H.R. 8193. This bill would provide that a minimum percentage of the gross tonnage of major liquid petroleum products imported into our country be carried in U.S. flag vessels. The proportion would be at least 20 percent upon enactment of the bill into law, at least 25 percent after June 30, 1975, and at least 30 percent after June 30, 1976.

Farm Bureau has long supported efforts to maintain a strong U.S. Merchant Marine. However, in view of the extensive subsidies received by the shipping industry, Farm Bureau does not believe it is proper for the government to require certain cargoes to be placed aboard American ships when their rates are not competitive with other available transportation. It would be more appropriate for U.S. flag ships to earn the right to transport commodities by being competitive

rather than through Congressional action.

Farm Bureau opposed H.R. 8193 because it would likely lead to higher cost of imported petroleum products, establish a precedent that may later be applied to exports of agricultural commodities, and prompt retaliation by foreign governments. The bill is now at the White House awaiting President Ford's signature. Farm Bureau has recommended to the President that the bill be vetoed.

### BRUCellosis INDEMNITY

The incidence of brucellosis outbreaks in Michigan livestock has been well controlled in recent years through a strong vaccination law. Michigan presently requires a calfhood vaccination for brucellosis of female beef and dairy breeding stock imported into the state or sold from one farm to another within the state. However, recent increases in brucellosis outbreaks within other states pose a potential problem to Michigan in maintaining its record of controlling the disease.

Federal law provides for the payment of indemnities to producers of cattle destroyed by brucellosis. The indemnity has been running at \$50 for grade animals and \$100 for purebred animals. Michigan also pays an indemnity for animals destroyed by brucellosis at a rate not to ex-

ceed \$50 for grade animals and \$100 for purebred animals.

In mid November, U.S.D.A. announced that the Federal brucellosis indemnities were being reduced by 30 percent. U.S.D.A. indicated that the reduction was necessary because spending at current rates would exhaust available indemnity funds before the end of the fiscal year.

Farm Bureau presented testimony before Congressional Appropriations Committees requesting that the 1975 Agricultural Appropriations Bill provide \$9 million for brucellosis indemnity payments. The House did not provide for this increase; however, the Senate-passed version did authorize \$9 million for brucellosis indemnity payments. U.S.D.A. then suspended its previously announced cutbacks in the brucellosis indemnity payment rates pending completion of action on the 1975 Agricultural Appropriations Bill. On December 11 House-Senate conferees reached agreement and adopted the House version with regards to brucellosis indemnity funds which would provide \$5 million rather than the \$9 million contained in the Senate version.

At the time this column is being written, there has been no further word from U.S.D.A. as to whether the previously announced cutback in brucellosis indemnity payments will be reinstated.

## In Awards Program

# Chippewa is Tops



Accepting "five star award" for Chippewa County are [from left] Mr. and Mrs. John Kronmeyer, Mrs. Marie Postma, Mrs. Hattie Lockhart, Mrs. Ed DeWitt, Frank Schwiderson and Ed DeWitt. Chippewa was the state's only "five star" county.

Chippewa County under the direction of President Frank Schwiderson took top honors at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual awards program.

The top county was a whopping big "5 Star" winner in its class. Chippewa was the only county in the state to win in five categories.

Chippewa earned stars for being tops in membership, policy development, community groups, information and women's programs.

Counties honored during the awards program were: For policy development — Chippewa, Mason, Hillsdale and Clinton; for commodity programs — Charlevoix, Montcalm, Hillsdale, Sanilac and Clinton; for information — Chippewa, Newaygo, Branch and Macomb; for women's programs — Chippewa, Missaukee, Ingham, Washtenaw and Sanilac; for young farmers — Clare, Mecosta, Ionia, Huron and Saginaw; for community groups — Chippewa, Gladwin, Branch, and Tuscola.

All of the above plus the following counties achieved membership goal: Alcona, Allegan, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Bay, Benzie.

Calhoun, Cheboygan, Copper Country, Emmet, Gratiot, Hiawathaland, Iosco, Iron Range, Isabella, Kalkaska, Kent, Lenawee, Mackinaw Luce, and Manistee.

Also Menominee, Midland, Monroe, Northwest Michigan, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Shiawassee and Wexford.

## Open House

A new 17 stall rotary milking parlor will be on view January 29 as part of an open house being held at the Spike dairy farm, 8400 North Seymour Road, Owosso.

The operation includes 208 stall confinement housing and will be open to visitors all day. Milking time is 5 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The modern dairy setup is part owned by Bill Spike, District 5 representative on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

# Q & A

**Q.** During the 1973-74 sessions of the Michigan Legislature and Congress, broad land use legislation was considered. What is the outlook for 1975-76?

**A.** The 1973-74 Michigan Legislature had before it a broad land use bill, H.B. 5055, sponsored by some 60 House members. Developed over a two year period during which numerous public hearings were held, the bill was reported by the House Towns and Counties Committee in early 1974. When the bill was considered by the House it was referred to the Appropriations Committee and was not sent back to the floor for consideration of its provisions.

At the Federal level a land use bill was approved by the Senate in 1973. This bill would have provided Federal funds to states for land use planning purposes. It would have required that in order to obtain the Federal funds, a state must develop control over land uses of "more than local significance." A similar bill was reported from the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, but the full House refused to consider it by a seven vote margin.

Legislation nearly identical to H.B. 5055 will be reintroduced when the 1975-76 Michigan Legislature convenes on January 8. It is expected at this time that the bill will again be approved by the House Towns and Counties Committee and receive thorough consideration on the House floor. If approved by the House, the bill would then go to the Senate. The Senate has not had a comprehensive land use bill come before any of its committees or the full Senate itself. However, if such a bill does reach the Senate during 1975-76, careful consideration can be expected.

Many observers at the Federal level are expressing optimism that the 94th Congress will approve a Federal land use bill.

Every Farm Bureau member is encouraged to read carefully a policy entitled, "Land Use", that was adopted by voting delegates at the 1974 Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting. This policy is contained in the policy insert included in this issue of Michigan Farm News.

## Michigan Farm News

### invites you to Fly the Flag for the Bicentennial.

We invite our readers to take part in the greatest show of colors this country has ever seen. We are proud to take part in this national campaign sponsored by the U.S. Bicentennial Society to restore the flag to a place of respect and honor it deserves.

To encourage you to fly the flag, we have arranged for you to purchase a complete Bicentennial Flag Kit for only \$8.95, including handling and shipping. The large quantities of flags involved makes this possible. Order the 50-Star Bicentennial Flag with the special Fly the Flag coupon. Also available: 13-Star Betsy Ross Flag and the Bennington '76 Flag. Your flag will be sent directly to your home at no additional charge.

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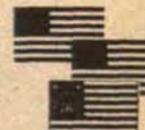
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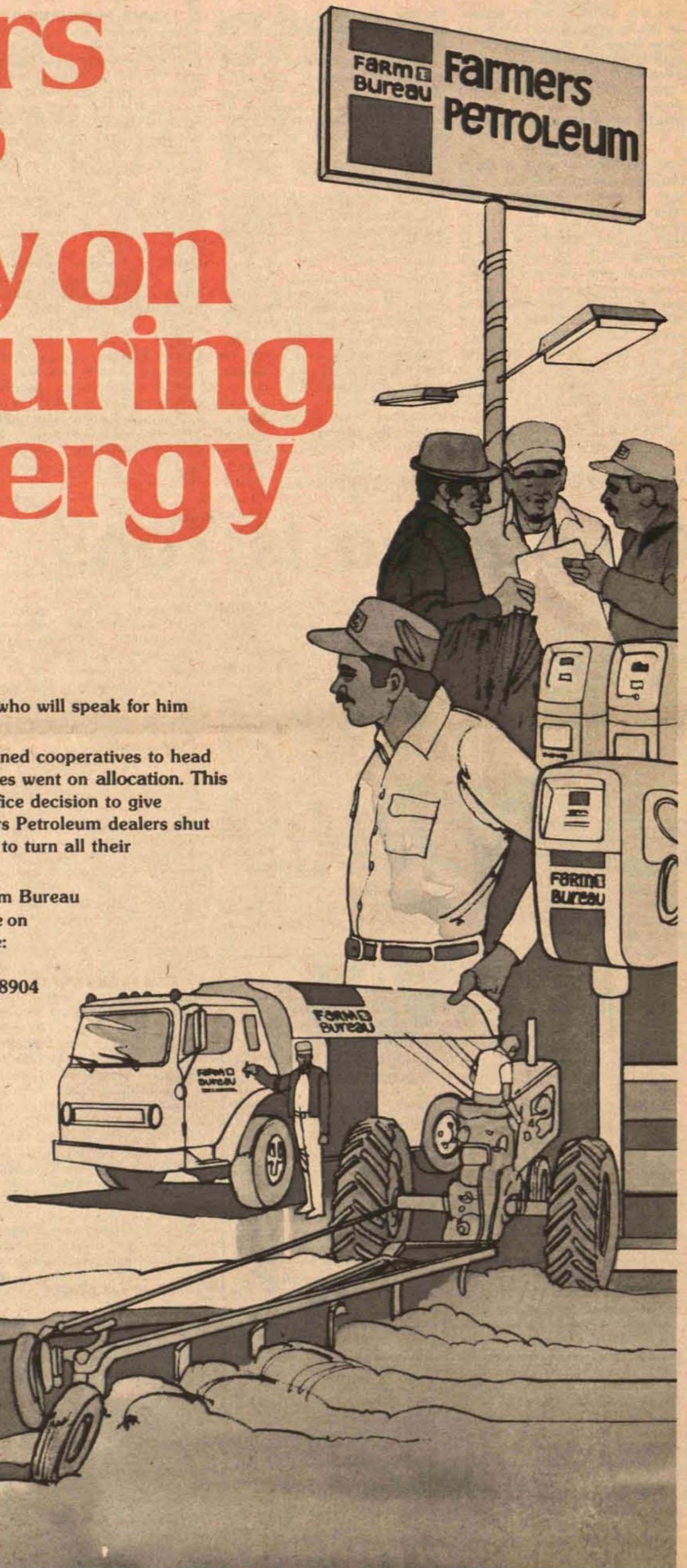
# HOW DID Farmers get TOP Priority on FUEL DURING the energy crisis?

The farmer has many fair weather friends, but few who will speak for him when trouble threatens.

The Farm Bureau people teamed with other concerned cooperatives to head off potential disaster to agriculture when fuel supplies went on allocation. This Cooperative action resulted in a Federal Energy Office decision to give top fuel priority to agricultural applications. Farmers Petroleum dealers shut down retail sales during the worst part of the crisis to turn all their attention to supplying fuel for farms.

A cooperative victory is a farmer's victory. The Farm Bureau people are your people. For an informative brochure on Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum, write:  
Farm Bureau Services/Farmers Petroleum  
Marketing Services Division, Box 960, Lansing, MI 48904

**ASK THE  
FARM BUREAU  
PEOPLE**



# MFB's 1975



This special section is a complete text of resolutions on state affairs and Farm Bureau by the delegate body representing Farm Bureau members through county delegations at the annual meeting in Grand Rapids, December 10-13.

Every Farm Bureau member has a opportunity to take part in policy development. This is done through community groups, county committees, county annual meetings, district meetings, etc. This year policy recommendations were sent in record number by the counties to the State Policy Development Committee made up of farmers from throughout the state. Several state commodity advisory committees, also made up of farmers from throughout the state, also provided recommendations to the committee.

Many of the following resolutions can be carried out through legislation and many others in other ways at the local level. Recommendations on national and international Farm Bureau policies passed by the delegates assist Michigan's voting delegates in helping determine policies on national and international affairs at the AFBF Convention, January 5-9, 1975.

## PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU

Farm Bureau is a free, independent, nongovernmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve education improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national, and international in its scope and influence and is nonpartisan, nonsectarian, and non-secret in character.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The recommendations on National and International Affairs adopted by the voting delegates have been forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for use by the national Resolutions Committee, which is made up of representatives of every State Farm Bureau. Michigan's recommendations will also serve as a guide for our voting delegates to the forthcoming Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The National and International Policies adopted at our National Convention will serve as the policy for all State Farm Bureaus.

This is essential in order that there may be effective harmony and unanimity among Farm Bureau organizations throughout the Nation.

Michigan's recommendations on National and International Affairs are available to County Farm Bureaus and others upon request.

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DELEGATES

55th Annual Meeting  
Grand Rapids - December 10, 11, 12, and 13, 1974  
FOREWORD

We live in a world of uncertainty. We have problems that were unthought of a year ago. Inflation and rising costs cast doubt on the ability of a free economic system to function. The election of new people in legislative positions in both Lansing and Washington will bring many legislative changes this next year. The conflicting uses of our national resources causes unrest and conflict among people.

Yet, the faith of Farm Bureau people in our organization and our institutions remains unshaken. Farm people have high ideals and great hope in our democratic process. We assume responsibility for improving our communities, we work to elect the best people to government within our political framework, and we actively support the schools and churches in our area.

The strength of any nation is no greater than the moral fibre of its people. Farmers believe wholeheartedly in the capitalistic system with its great benefits to people. The United States has only six percent of the world's people, yet we enjoy nearly 40 percent of the world's goods.

As attention is drawn to starving people around the globe and how to get food for them, American agriculture with its great productive capacity emerges as the hope of mankind. Farm people can meet the challenge of producing enough food if we remain free of government interference.

As we see the conflicting demands for the use of land, we become strongly convinced that a workable land use policy must be operative in Michigan. People cannot destroy a national resource as important as prime land and survive.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we have to recognize the total Farm Bureau family and their contribution to our success. The Women, with their emphasis on community involvement, have brought to the consuming public an awareness of farm life and farming that brings credit to our organization. The Young Farmer Program, with the involvement of young farmers in Farm Bureau, has contributed greatly to our vitality. This faith in Farm Bureau inspires us to preserve an agriculture in Michigan that is permanent, can stand social pressures, has a fair tax system and encourages us to attain and improve a marketing system that returns to farmers a fair share of the market.

Because of these goals, we put great effort into establishing policy for our organization. We know that policy only has meaning when it truly reflects the opinions and concerns of our farmer-members. For this reason, we put more effort into policy development than any other organization. Nearly 1,000 community groups, 69 county or regional Farm Bureau annual meetings representing 77

counties, and ten statewide advisory committees contribute recommendations to our Policy Development Committee.

The committee, to better recommend policy, goes to great lengths to inform itself, using over 50 resource people in addition to all the resources available in our Farm Bureau and affiliate companies.

The committee, after spending six days in deliberation, presents to the delegate body this, our annual report.

After consideration and adoption, this becomes the policy for 1975. Through the strength that comes from unity, we pledge to achieve our goals. Together, let's answer today's challenges.

Dean Pridgeon, Chairman  
MFB Policy Development Committee

## APPRECIATION

During the 77th Legislative Session much legislation consistent with Farm Bureau policies was passed, including:

1. Passage of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (PA 116) encouraging preservation of land including property tax relief.
2. Major tax reforms including limiting property tax to a percentage of household income, raising income tax exemptions, assessment reforms, increase to local government from state swamplands and increasing to one year gas tax refund filing period.
3. Creation of a Tax Tribunal designed as a more equitable system of handling taxpayer appeals.
4. Major changes in school finance including passage of the "equal yield" concept and increased state aid.
5. Passage of marketing rights legislation (PA 344) enabling growers of fruit and vegetables to bargain with processors.
6. Legislation controlling serious erosion and sedimentation from highways, pipelines, and residential and commercial developments.
7. Protection of farmland from unsound Corps of Engineers' wastewater programs.
8. Several livestock, dairy, and crop measures.
9. Continued appropriations for the Extension Service and agricultural research programs at Michigan State University and "planning funds" for a new M.S.U. Plant Science Building.
10. Amendments to the Bean Commission Act and creation of the Beef Commission.
11. Matching funds for upgrading housing for seasonal workers.
12. Passage of legislation allowing state administration of federal safety standards.
13. Amendments to the Horton Trespass Act, litter laws and Trespassers Liability Act.

We commend the Governor and the Legislature on enactment of these and several other measures we have supported which are important to agriculture and to the economy of the State of Michigan. We also appreciate the fact that much proposed legislation not in the best interest of agriculture has not been adopted.

# Taxation

## TAX REFORM

The 77th Legislature has made major progress in basic tax reform. These changes include agricultural property tax relief, increased income tax exemptions and adoption of the "circuit breaker" concept. For the first time property taxes are based, to some degree, on household income. The adoption of this basic reform measure along with others leads toward a better balanced tax structure for Michigan. We believe the following will continue the trend toward greater equity of taxation:

- New sources of revenue for local units of government in order to relieve property taxes.
- Continued improvement of assessment and equalization procedures.
- Permit assessment and taxation of new property for school purposes the first year it is built.
- Further limitations on property taxes for educational purposes.
- Use of the income tax as a major source of funds to finance schools.
- Revision of Michigan Inheritance tax law.
- Prevention of inequities arising from special assessments on property that receives no benefit from the project.

The balance of Michigan's tax structure should result in every citizen paying his fair share toward the support of his schools and other local and state government services.

## ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY

All counties were required to have equalization departments by 1969. Since that year local assessors have been required to become certified through special training programs in order to assess property. Both programs have made progress but in some instances are only partially successful. Some equalization directors do a fine job while others have not been allowed to function.

In many counties all assessors were certified, while in others only a small number. Changes of local assessors through elections continually create the demand for the required training. We believe that all property should be

# Resolutions

assessed only by qualified trained people working in conjunction with a qualified county equalization director. The goal is to have property fairly assessed within a county and between neighboring counties. County equalization directors should be able to assist local certified assessors whenever specialized knowledge is required. This will maintain local control and help assure equitable procedures. New up-dated Assessors Manual should aid local assessors to achieve more equitable and uniform assessment.

The creation of the new Tax Tribunal, designed to free the Michigan Tax Commission of the appeals responsibility, should assure individual taxpayers and local governments an efficient and impartial appeals procedure. State equalization of the value of each county within the state is the third step in the assessment and equalization process beginning with the local assessor and Board of Review. We believe that while good progress has been made, there should be legislation requiring the Tax Commission and all units of government involved in the assessment process to adhere to a strict timetable in order to assure taxpayers their rights of appeal.

## AGRICULTURAL LAND TAXATION

Passage of the Agricultural Land and Open Space Preservation Act, PA 116, (H 4244) is a major step in providing a system to encourage the preservation of good agricultural land and open space. The act is voluntary and provides property tax relief to those desiring to maintain their land for agricultural or open space.

Michigan is the 34th state to pass this type of legislation. Farmers have been the victims of an insidious "real estate roulette." Inability to pay the taxes forces selling, often to a developer with large financial resources who can afford to hold the land for huge speculative profits. The proper tax structure can be an effective method of preserving farmland for future food needs and open space. It can also be an effective tool to conserve water, help purify polluted air and provide for aesthetic and recreational values. Open land creates no cost, traffic jams or parking problems. It requires no service such as sewage, water of schools and actually helps moderate the service load to the community.

We urge that the state agencies and local government implement PA 116 as quickly as possible. We continue to support this legislation and as experience is gained, will work to improve it.

## ESTATE SETTLEMENT

Past experience has proven that the settlement of estates in Michigan can be a time-consuming, costly, and demoralizing process. We recommend that:

1. The Legislature give a priority position to legislation changing the probate code to provide for a uniform, prompt, and equitable method of estate settlement.
2. Legislation be passed to update Michigan's Inheritance Tax laws. Present exemptions are unrealistic and should be increased consistent with inflationary pressures.

## GAS TAX REFUND

New legislation now permits applications at any time during the year for the previous year's gas tax refund on gasoline used for non-highway purposes. We believe that further progress can be made by permitting the refund to be applied as a credit to the income tax similar to the federal system. The taxpayer should be permitted to use either system.

## TAXATION OF MOBILE HOMES

Presently, mobile homes in trailer parks pay, in lieu of property taxes, a fee of \$3 per month. Two dollars of this amount goes to the school, 50 cents to the township, and 50 cents to the county. This fee system, enacted in 1959, is no longer realistic. The increased value of trailer homes is not reflected, nor do they contribute a proper share of the cost of schools and local government.

We support legislative action to increase the fee to a level in relation to the property taxes paid by other homeowners.

## FISH FARMING

Fish farming is developing as a food production industry in Michigan. Presently, fish farming is recognized as a farming operation for tax purposes by the Internal Revenue Service as well as a number of other states. We support legislation which would give similar recognition to fish farming in Michigan.

# Education and State Affairs

## EDUCATIONAL FINANCE

Major changes in the financing of education were made during the 77th legislative session resulting in a "new equity in Michigan school finance." Reforms included the initiation of the "equal yield" concept guaranteeing a specific dollar yield for each mill of taxation, a new formula for funding intermediate districts, and a formula for assistance for bonding millage.

While these and other changes are highly commendable, the property tax remains the major source of local school finance. Continued voter rejection of millage proposals throughout the state clearly indicates the need for further efforts in school finance and for educational reforms. Property taxes for this purpose are obsolete and do not have the capability to expand to meet increasing needs, nor are they a good measure of ability to pay.

We recommend:

- Continued efforts to reduce and limit property taxes for school purposes.

- Increased use of the income tax as a major source of funds.
- Expanded aid to assist in the cost of needed facilities.
- Sufficient funds appropriated to pay in full all state aid formulas.
- Legislation to require each taxpayer to identify his school district on his income tax form.

We believe it is possible to achieve further educational finance reform without eroding the fundamental right of the local community to determine educational goals within broad general guidelines provided by law.

#### EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

We believe that additional reforms should be made in our education system. We recommend:

- The present State Board of Education should be replaced by a bipartisan, odd numbered Education Commission appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Commission should employ the Director of Education.
- Intermediate school district reorganization should be voluntary. However, if reorganized, the policy making board should be representative of all local boards of education and all areas of the district.
- Statewide testing and assessment of student progress and total evaluation of education should be continued and expanded, with the goal of advisory educational accountability standards.
- Reorganization of K-12 districts should continue to be voluntary. Required reorganization should be delayed until such time as assessment and evaluation tests provide factual information as to quality education programs for students.
- Cooperative programs among small K-12 school districts to help provide a broader curriculum.
- The use of program budgeting.
- In-service training for teachers be encouraged.
- Local school facilities be used to their fullest potential for education purposes for both youth and adults. Year-round school would be feasible in many areas.
- Vocational-technical programs for both youth and adults be made available to all areas of the state. Existing educational facilities should be used wherever possible. The "World of Work" demands salable skills.
- Building accountability into the educational system. School boards, administrators, teachers, students and parents must work together to set goals and objectives to improve student learning and performance.
- Evaluation of teacher education programs in the colleges.
- Full implementation and funding of special education programs for handicapped children. It has been proven beyond a doubt that these children can be educated to lead productive lives with dignity and contribute to society.
- New and innovative instructional methods be researched and used wherever possible.
- Educational programs be constantly re-evaluated to determine the priorities and needs of our economy and work force. Education at all levels must meet the constantly changing needs of society.

#### SCHOOL CURRICULUM

School curriculum is primarily the responsibility of the local school board. Parents should work with the local school board members in developing curriculum that upgrades the educational opportunities in our schools. This is especially important as career and vocational education become more established. Curriculum should be continually updated. For example, the metric system of measurement should become a part of the curriculum as should a program for the especially gifted or talented child. Other exceptional children are already provided educational opportunities. School boards should not ignore the teaching of patriotism, concern for one's fellow man and instruction in our economic system and government.

#### STRIKES BY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

In recent years, there have been many strikes by public employees such as teachers, policemen, and firemen. These actions can be a threat to the well-being of communities affected by the strikes.

We are especially concerned with the trampling of the rights of young people to an education caused by strikes. School shutdowns cause irreparable damage to educational opportunities. We believe that legislative guidelines must be set to clearly define what is negotiable in the bargaining process and set a mandatory timetable to assure that contract talks are completed before the beginning of the school year.

We further believe that laws outlawing strikes by public employees should be strictly enforced.

#### TEACHER TENURE

The inflexibility of the present teacher tenure law makes it unreasonably difficult for school boards to discharge incompetent personnel. School Boards are often forced to sit in hearings for unreasonable periods of time. We believe the tenure act should be streamlined to include the use of outside hearing officers, removal of administrators from the act unless specifically included by board action, require a single approach to removal procedure either through the employee contract, tenure act or court system.

#### SCHOOL BOARDS' COOPERATION

We believe that it is imperative that school boards work together in all areas in an effort to effectively deal with the increasing problems of school districts, including the rising cost of education, teacher and employee contract negotiations, curriculum, etc.

We commend the Michigan Association of School Boards in its efforts to correlate the attitudes and positions of all school boards.

#### VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Occupational education should be an integral part of the total education process. An integrated program can develop positive attitudes toward work, create awareness of the vast occupational opportunities, and provide

knowledge and skills to meet the demands of a constantly changing society.

Vocational centers are rapidly developing, many through existing local educational units including community colleges, intermediate school districts, and high school districts. We fully support these programs and believe that the ultimate goal should be to develop and implement effective occupational programs in all areas of the state. Such training should, wherever feasible, include "on the job" training in cooperation with local businesses. Skilled people should be permitted to become instructors even though they may not meet the present certification requirements.

Where necessary, state minimum wage and child labor laws should be revised to permit the greatest possible opportunity for individuals to become trained for the world of work.

The Legislature should adequately finance the construction of vocational education centers, the operation of all such programs, and also the transportation of students. Local property cannot be expected to assume the total additional burden. The control of the center should remain in the hands of the local intermediate school district.

#### MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

This pioneer land grant college has become a great university and has not lost sight of the fact that agriculture and agri-business is the foundation stone of nearly 30 percent of the economic base of our state and that the benefits of research of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Agricultural Experiment Station, along with the Cooperative Extension Service, have resulted in better living for all our people, rural and urban.

The greatness of a university lies in its dedication to a search for truth and in serving all people regardless of race, creed, or background. If Michigan State University sacrifices principles because of political pressure, then its greatness would diminish.

We believe that Michigan State University must continue to give prime consideration to those disciplines and recognize the great need for specialized training for agricultural-related occupations which may or may not lead to a degree, but can be met through the course work offered by the Institute of Agricultural Technology.

We believe that scholarships and loans should continue to be available to qualified students needing assistance.

It is obvious that there will be increasing further needs for emphasis in the areas covered by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Experiment Station, the Extension Service, the Institute of Agricultural Technology, and the world-renowned Pesticide Research Center, as well as all other areas of agricultural studies.

Through the years, we have supported the expansion of many of the services of Michigan State University. We are now concerned with the critical shortage of medically trained personnel and will continue to support the development of a complete College of Human and Osteopathic Medicine.

We shall continue to support research and educational programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, recognizing that the benefits accrue to the entire economy.

#### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The Institute of Agricultural Technology, MSU, reports a constantly increasing enrollment and demand in many occupational fields for employees with agricultural background and training. The Federal Vocational Act of 1963, and 1968 amendments, finally recognized the urgent need for technical training in agriculture. Since that time the number of students involved in technical training in agriculture has quintupled. A study by the National Academy of Science indicates that three technicians are needed for every college graduate in the agricultural-related fields. Presently the ratio is only 1-1.

The demand for more teachers of vocational and technical agriculture continues with the advent of "career education" and specialized programs on both secondary and post-secondary levels in vocational centers and community colleges. It is estimated that Michigan could need 1000 teachers by 1980. We urge capable students to consider this career opportunity.

We strongly urge that teachers of vocational agriculture continue to be employed on a 12-month basis. Summer months provide the opportunity for students to put into practice much of the vocational agricultural instruction provided during the school year. Providing this on-the-farm instruction to students is an important part of the vocational agriculture teacher's responsibilities. Vocational agriculture and FFA are unmatched in teaching "individual enterprise" through practical application of classroom training.

We continue to support these programs and urge that greater emphasis be given to the increasing opportunities in technical agriculture and agri-business.

#### EXTENSION SERVICE

The Cooperative Extension Service has played a vital and successful role in the development of American agriculture. With the help of the Extension Service's information and education programs, American farmers have developed their operations into the most efficient industry in the world. This development has definitely been a financial benefit to individual farmers, but more so has helped make it possible for the American consumer to spend a lower percent of his net income for food than any other consumer in the world.

We, within agriculture, believe that every effort should be made to use successful Extension Service methods for all people in our society who desire them; however, at the same time we are concerned that this will be at the expense of the Agricultural Extension Service and research programs.

In light of these considerations we recommend:

1. That any appropriations for nonagricultural programs

be in addition to, not in place of, already existing appropriations.

2. That Agricultural Extension Service and research be continued at or in excess of the present rate.
3. That any requirement for special reports put upon the Extension Service be financed by the necessary appropriation, not by siphoning off a part of the already overtaxed budget.
4. That efforts be made to develop Extension-type programs for urban people where they are needed under the jurisdiction of the Extension Service with special appropriations being made for these programs.
5. That Extension continue its traditional educational role of supplying unbiased factual information but avoid taking positions pro or con on public issues.
6. That the Cooperative Extension program continue to be administered through the Director within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

#### SPECIALIZED EXTENSION AGENTS

Due to the transition from general farming to more specialized agriculture, we feel the movement in the Cooperative Extension Service to specialized multi-county Extension Agents will provide better service to all farmers.

We support this concept and urge the Cooperative Extension Service to continue to create these positions whenever feasible.

We encourage County Boards of Commissioners to cooperate with the Extension Service in providing funds for these agents.

#### 4-H

We compliment the Michigan Cooperative Extension Service for its role in the development of the 4-H Program. This program has proven valuable by providing educational opportunities to both rural and urban youth.

We urge that competition be an integral part of the program. Society demands competition every day of one's life.

We also commend the 4-H leadership for the new and exciting projects developed to gain interest and participation on the part of Michigan youth.

#### MSU PLANT SCIENCE BUILDING

The basis for all agriculture is in the ability to efficiently produce crops for food and fiber. Michigan State University is well known for outstanding research work in the area of plant science. Presently, the Plant Science and Horticultural divisions are scattered in several locations. There is a serious need for a Plant Science Building for greater efficiency.

Legislation was passed two years ago appropriating monies to plan a new Plant Science Building at Michigan State University. We are concerned that planning has not moved more rapidly, and ask that this project be treated more urgently.

We will support further appropriations to complete the Plant Science Building.

#### MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

##### AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

The Agricultural Experiment Stations have played a valuable role in our society. 1975 will mark the centennial year. Historically, research done in these facilities has helped to increase efficiency in food production. Both farmers and consumers have benefited from developments by this system.

In this time of short supply of food and fiber, additional research is needed if demand is to be met. New techniques must be applied to farming to aid in solving environmental concerns and conservation of energy and natural resources. Such research aids all people, both farm and nonfarm.

The Agricultural Experiment Station at Michigan State University is one of the finest in the country. It serves eight colleges, including Agriculture and Natural Resources, Engineering, Human Ecology, Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Social Science, and Veterinary Medicine.

We are proud of the work done by the Experiment Station. We commend the Legislature for providing funds for its operation and ask that additional funds be provided to carry on research projects in:

- Optimizing Energy, Land and Water
- Improving Food and Feed Crop Production
- Dairy Systems
- Improving Food Quality
- Housing for Non-Urban Communities
- Environmental Monitoring Network for Agricultural Production

#### MEDICAL TRAINING

Many communities are faced with a shortage of physicians to provide needed medical services. Rural communities are especially affected by the shortage of physicians. Ample financial support must be given to training programs at our teaching hospitals to encourage Michigan medical students to take their internship and residencies in Michigan.

We commend the Michigan Health Council for its efforts to place medical physicians into service in our state.

We encourage the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine to develop a Physician's Assistant Program to provide more readily available medical service.

#### UNIVERSITY BOARDS OF CONTROL

Michigan's three major state-supported universities have board of control nominated and elected through the political system. We believe this system could be improved. Too often, the nominations at political conventions for these positions are based on political reasons rather than ability or dedication.

We believe that the State Constitution should be amended to provide that the boards of control of Michigan State University, University of Michigan, and Wayne State University be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. We believe this system has worked well for the other colleges in the state.

**AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL**

Our country will celebrate its 200th anniversary in 1976. We are already in the bicentennial era. It is an opportunity for all individual and organizations to re-evaluate our origin, our values and the meaning of America, to take pride in our accomplishments and dramatize our development. Michigan has a Bicentennial Commission headed by outstanding state leaders including Michigan Farm Bureau's president.

There are three basic Bicentennial themes—Heritage 76—Festivals U.S.A.—and Horizons 76. Michigan is third in the nation in having 95 Bicentennial Communities officially recognized by the American Bicentennial Commission in Washington, D.C. Nearly 300 local communities have organized to plan for this celebration. One particularly exciting program in Michigan will be a review within the school system of our Constitutional form of government with the goal that better understanding of these principles will yield more responsible citizen involvement and strengthen established institutions.

Every American should become involved in local celebrations of this 200th birthday and look with confidence toward our country's third century.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

A special commission on local government presented its final report in 1972. The report was broad and comprehensive, recommending more than 70 changes in local government ranging from the townships to the cities, counties, and regions.

Many of the recommendations are progressive and can lead to better local government. However, we strongly question the recommendations on state and local fiscal policy. For example, the short range tax recommendation for townships is an automatic authorization for five mills of property tax—five times more than the present. The long range recommendation for townships is a 20-mill property tax. It is further recommended that counties be authorized to levy a maximum of 15 mills of property tax. These two recommendations total 35 mills! In addition, it is recommended that they be imposed without voter approval.

While we have always supported progressive changes and modernization of government at all levels, we will oppose any efforts to impose such unrealistic tax burdens or other changes that deprive the public of voter control of governmental policies.

**COURT REFORM**

A comprehensive study was made of the judicial system in Michigan. The report has now been filed. It contains sections of selection of judges, financing of courts, functions of courts, tenure for some judges, and establishment of several new Circuit Courts.

The report contains a version of Supreme Court Justice selection known as a variation of the Missouri Non-partisan Court Plan. More than 21 other states have adopted various versions. Presently, Michigan's Supreme Court is called nonpartisan, but the method of nominating candidates at political conventions is far from nonpartisan.

The recommendation of the committee provides for the appointment of Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges; it preserves the right of the people to have a voice in the selection of judges, as the judge is required to run solely on his record and not against other opponents in a general election. The people decide whether he should be retained.

Circuit Judges, on the other hand, would continue to be nominated and elected at nonpartisan elections.

Further provision is made for justices and judges of all courts to retire at 65 years of age.

We believe these and other reforms should help lead to a better court system resulting in prompt and equitable justice to the citizens of Michigan. Further, we are opposed to funding and control of local courts by the State of Michigan.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE**

We support the special legislative committee that has been created to study Michigan's system of juvenile justice and are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau is represented on the committee. Such comprehensive studies can, we believe, lead to better and more coordinated legislation. We will analyze the final report of this committee in terms of its effect on the residents of rural Michigan.

**PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

Many people travel during the summer because their children are out of school. Many fail to vote in primary elections for this reason. In addition, with today's communication, candidates do not need from August to November to inform the voters of their stand on issues. Political campaigns are too long and expensive.

We will support the changing of primary elections to the second Tuesday in September.

We also favor the retention of the open primary election system.

**ELECTRICAL ENERGY**

Electricity is an essential source of energy for agricultural production. We are concerned with the direction that necessary rate increases are taking. For example, since 1969 farmers have had a substantial increase in electrical energy unit costs while some low use consumers have had little increase, or in some cases, a decrease.

Energy is a major cost in farm production, and it adds to other spiraling costs. The proposed "inverted scale" now under consideration will further escalate farmers costs. Such increases must be passed on to consumers in the price they pay for food.

We are opposed to the "inverted scale" electric rates now under consideration.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Electric and telephone utility transmission lines, gas lines and oil lines rights-of-way agreements are often confusing to property owners. Many are based on different statutes. We believe that the acquiring of rights-of-way for these purposes should be standardized as nearly as possible

with contracts or other legal instruments including as many protections to the landowner as possible. We further believe that consideration should be given to the leasing rather than sale of rights-of-way.

**RESPECT FOR LAW**

If we are to preserve the concept that ours is a government of laws, not of men, we must insist on adherence to laws and respect for properly constituted authorities. We support our local police and will work to keep them independent and on a local basis. We do not condone the flaunting of laws in the search for solutions to social or economic problems.

Lawlessness of many types is prevalent in the United States. Some court decisions provide greater protection to the accused than to society. Some judges and parole boards allow criminals to be turned loose to prey on society, thus making the task of law enforcement more difficult.

We believe that punishment is a deterrent to crime. We favor reinstatement of capital punishment.

We favor a more positive emphasis on educational rehabilitation of inmates confined to penal institutions that will afford them a better opportunity to assume a constructive role in society and assist in preventing their future confinement.

We propose more strict enforcement of laws protecting private and public property, both rural and urban, from losses due to riots, vandalism, and looting and urge prosecution of offenders. Early action to quell such activities is essential.

We urge citizens to carry out their responsibility to help law enforcement officers by offering pertinent information and assistance. Such citizens should be given protection by law.

We also urge support and expressions of confidence to our law enforcement officers and urge that they be given protection from liability when performing their duties.

We urge passage of state and federal legislation to provide that any person who, while out on bail waiting trial in a felony case, is arrested as a suspect in another felony case shall have his bail revoked and be returned to custody.

We believe the penalty for taking a hostage should be the same as for kidnapping.

Many believe the alarming increase in crime and violence can be linked to excessive exposure given by the news media to such acts. We urge those responsible for handling of reporting and presentation of entertainment which involves crime and violence to exercise restraint and good judgment.

**NARCOTICS AND HARMFUL DRUGS**

The rapidly growing use of narcotics and harmful drugs must be stopped. We encourage massive, direct, and realistic education efforts to inform youth, parents, and others concerning the harmful effects of drug abuse. We oppose legalization of marijuana.

Courts should continue to strengthen penalties imposed on drug pushers.

Rehabilitation centers and drug information programs are now available to drug users in most parts of Michigan. Drug users should be encouraged to use these programs.

We support enforcement of laws to tighten the importation, manufacture, and distribution of narcotics and harmful drugs.

**RAILROAD CAR REFLECTORS**

Many serious traffic accidents resulting in death, injuries, and great monetary loss are occurring at unprotected railroad crossings. Most of these accidents are happening during the night hours. We believe that luminous paint or reflectors should be required on the sides of new or repainted railroad cars as a safety measure.

**ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY**

The St. Lawrence Seaway was a dream of imaginative men nearly 100 years ago, and its accomplishment has turned the shores of the Great Lakes into the fourth coast of the United States. It brings to Michigan an opportunity for export trade direct to foreign customers. Michigan has become the second largest exporter of manufactured goods. It is a major shipper of agricultural produce, and yet less than ten percent of our exports are shipped via the Seaway. Much of this is due to the need of Michigan's 23 ports, especially the Saginaw Port, for improvement. The Saginaw River is not deep enough for oceangoing vessels.

We believe that this valuable economic asset should be used to its fullest, and we vigorously support the deepening and widening of the Saginaw Bay and River channels to accommodate oceangoing ships.

**AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Many discussions of the Michigan economy often seem to forget the vast rural areas of the state. Yet much of Michigan's progress and problems are based within rural Michigan's economy. For example, the economies of most rural areas are based on agriculture. Michigan agriculture, the 2nd largest industry, makes a unique contribution to our state and in turn the national economy and international balance of trade. It is estimated that more than 25 percent of all Michigan citizens receive some portion of their income from agriculture as a result of the combination of production, transportation, processing and marketing. Nearly 50 agricultural products are commercially grown in Michigan. Michigan leads the nation in the production of six crops and is fifth or higher in 19 others. Investment per worker in agriculture is estimated to be three times the amount invested per worker in the auto industries and in some types of farming, much higher.

Agricultural productivity has increased twice as fast as manufacturing productivity in the past two decades. The farmer now produces 3.3 times more per manhour than he did 20 years ago. As a result, over the years food costs have plummeted as a percent of workers take home pay. During those same years, however, agricultural income for most farm families has not kept pace nor has a reasonable return been realized on their investments. Farmers are the victims of inflation which result in spiraling cost of inputs for food production. Agriculture has become "decapitalized"

at a time when capital needs have increased dramatically and income growth has not kept up with those needs.

Rural poverty has also been overlooked in Michigan as being of little significance. However, one study documents that "only 26 percent of all Michigan families live in rural areas but 34 percent of all 'poor' families are concentrated there. . . ." Rural poverty is often more serious but less visible than in urban areas. Many of the costs of living are higher. Educational, cultural and recreational facilities are often not as readily available. Many public and private assistance programs are not available. Distances and transportation are added problems resulting in a lack of "equity of access."

We believe that greater attention must be paid to Michigan agriculture and development of rural areas. Some approaches include:

1. Improve rural transportation networks by maintaining a viable railroad system, development of Michigan ports, maintenance and upgrading of rural road systems, and availability of railroad cars.
2. Recognition of the crucial role of education in future rural growth including equal educational opportunities and student loans, especially to those pursuing an agricultural education.
3. Investment credits to encourage expansion of agricultural and rural industry.
4. Continued expansion of the rural tourist industry.
5. Tax incentives as an aid to new job creation. Michigan is 49th among the 50 states offering such incentives.
6. Recognition that costly restrictions of various kinds can further "decapitalize" agriculture and discourage development and expansion.
7. Recognition of rural credit needs.
8. Changes in inheritance laws to maintain farmland through easier and less costly transfer.
9. Assurance of necessary energy resources for maximum production.

These and other approaches can result in positive programs to revitalize and further develop rural areas.

## Natural Resources and Agriculture

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

Many actions of the Department of Natural Resources have tremendous effects on Michigan agriculture. We are pleased that finally a person with a thorough understanding of agriculture has been appointed to the commission. We believe this creates a balance on the Commission and will result in a better overall understanding of environmental problems.

**LAND USE**

Land is an essential resource to those who make their living from the soil. It is also an essential resource to the economy of Michigan and to the well-being of all citizens. About 33 percent of Michigan's 36.3 million acres is farmland. The production of food and fiber on this farmland contributes over \$1.4 billion annually to the economy making agriculture our second largest industry. Although less than one out of every 100 Michigan citizens operates a farm, 27 percent derive some part of their income from agriculture.

Michigan produces approximately 50 percent of its food needs within the state. However, urban sprawl and unplanned development are moving steadily across much of our most productive farmland. At the present conversion rate of farmland into urban uses, it is estimated Michigan will be down to 2.5 million acres of farmland by the year 2000. It is imperative to the future well-being of every Michigan citizen that our essential farmlands be protected for food production.

We support continuation of the Office of Land Use within the Department of Natural Resources. We will support legislation to create a Land Use Commission within the Department of Natural Resources. The commission should have agricultural representation and geographic consideration with responsibility for coordinating the development and implementation of broad statewide land use guidelines to include such areas as agricultural land, urban development, recreational land, unique areas, forest lands and utility and transportation corridors. Any statewide land use program should identify and encourage the preservation of productive farmland. Our state ranks fifth or higher among the 50 states in production of 25 food crops grown on a wide range of soils. Productive farmland should not be based solely on soil capability for one or two major crops.

The state should provide necessary guidelines to local governments to assure the implementation of adequate land use programs. The state guidelines should provide for strong local involvement in the land use planning process and include the following principles:

1. Private property rights and the right of individual appeal must be preserved.
2. Planning for land resources which are essentially local in character must be a responsibility of local government.
3. Enforcement of land use regulations and the settlement of conflicts must be a function of the level of government closest to the people affected.
4. Planning for local land resources must be permitted some flexibility to allow local planning bodies to adopt plans that reflect local goals.
5. A partnership approach in implementing sound land use programs should be developed between all levels of government and the private sector.

State land use programs should be instituted only if local land use programs cannot meet established guidelines. We urge Farm Bureau members to take an active part in land

use planning in all levels of government. If local land use control is to be maintained, it is imperative that local people accept the responsibility to plan the use of their land resources.

The newly enacted Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act can do much to prevent the conversion of farmland into other uses due to confiscatory taxation and special assessments for utilities such as urban water lines, sewers, streets, etc. We urge all Farm Bureau members to become informed of this law and consider its merits according to their individual situations. In many instances this law will provide an effective land use program.

We oppose federal assistance to states for land use planning except under a grant-in-aid program. Funds available to a state should not be withheld as a weapon to enforce compliance with any federal land use program.

#### SUBDIVISION CONTROL

The present Subdivision Control Act permits a tract of land to be divided into not more than four parcels of ten acres or less without platting. However, many instances of circumventing the platting of land have been observed through the selling of land in parcels of 10.1 acres or greater. This practice has led to several areas of unplanned developments.

We will support legislation to require platting whenever the practice of dividing land creates more than four parcels of 40 acres or less.

#### SOIL CONSERVATION AND SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Good soil conservation practices, minimizing erosion and conserving water, is one of agriculture's most important contributions to a clean environment. However, responsibility for the use and improvement of land and water resources rests on all citizens, urban as well as rural. The unprecedented world and domestic demand for food places a tremendous responsibility on all segments of society to safeguard our land resources from soil erosion.

Enactment of the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act requires that after January 1, 1975, earth changes must be accomplished in a way that will prevent accelerated erosion and sedimentation. Agricultural tillage practices are now exempt from this Act. We support adequate state funding to permit Soil Conservation Districts and counties to fulfill their responsibilities under the Act.

The Soil Conservation Districts, now organized in every Michigan county, are operated by elected directors serving without salary and are effective units of soil-saving activity. We pledge our support to work with Soil Conservation Districts to conserve soil and water through sound conservation practices. We believe Soil Conservation Districts should remain within the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

#### SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Soil Conservation Service personnel provide valuable technical assistance to farmers in planning and implementing conservation and pollution abatement programs. SCS assistance must be continued if farmers are to comply with increasing environmental regulations and continue their effective conservation practices. We support adequate funding and personnel authorizations for the SCS.

#### ENVIRONMENT

Public concern for the environment continues to be a powerful force. This concern poses serious implication to agriculture. The future of agriculture is dependent on air, water and land as natural tools of production. Agriculture has an important responsibility to improve the quality of our environment.

All persons engaged in agriculture should become informed of pollution sources and discipline themselves so as not to add to the problem. Good housekeeping and a good neighbor policy can do much to prevent environmental problems from occurring. We urge that agricultural representatives be consulted during the development of pollution regulations and such regulations, when implemented, should be realistic and consistent with good food production practices.

Continued research is necessary to find adequate answers to agricultural waste disposal problems. Continued emphasis should be placed on developing recycling systems for agricultural waste.

We believe that whenever an environmental impact study is required, an economic study should also be required to inform the public of the probable consequences of the proposals.

Agriculture should continue to be a voting member of the Air Pollution Control Commission and Water Resources Commission.

#### COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL PLANS

By law, cities and townships have been required to close their dumps and counties assigned the responsibility of providing a plan for solid waste disposal. This can become a financial burden on rural counties with a small population.

We will seek a modification in existing legislation to allow counties with small populations to be exempt from the law.

#### LAND DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER

The use of land to dispose of industrial and municipal wastewater is receiving much attention due to national water pollution abatement goals established by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The supply of nutrients in the wastewater could be beneficial to agriculture. There are also several potential problem areas of concern to farmers. We believe any proposal to use productive farmland for wastewater disposal should:

1. Permit private enterprise agriculture with voluntary participation.
2. Require that the disposal of wastewater from any city, county, village, or township may not be transferred to another without the consent of the affected units of government.
3. Provide flexibility in amount and timing of wastewater application according to agricultural needs.

4. Provide indemnity payments for unsaleable crops due to Food and Drug Administration regulations or crop losses caused by wastewater components.

5. Provide indemnity for land should it become unfit for use because of wastewater components.

#### MINERAL RIGHTS

In many areas of the state, mineral rights were either sold or retained by original owners throughout the years resulting in the fact that many present day owners do not own the mineral rights to their property. Farming operations are disturbed when the owners of mineral rights exercise their right to develop the property. While compensation is due the owner of the surface rights, often there are other losses incurred for which no compensation is received. We believe that the owner of surface rights should receive some portion of the royalties to compensate him for these losses and the fact that he has paid taxes on the property over the years.

Presently there are laws permitting oil and gas mineral rights to revert to the owner of the property. We believe that this principle should be extended to other kinds of mineral rights.

#### TRESPASS

Farmers are concerned with the increasing disregard for private property rights by trespassers and the inability or unwillingness of local authorities to protect such rights. We will support an amendment to the Horton Trespass Act that would authorize all law enforcement officers to arrest without a warrant or complaint any person who does not have written permission from the property owner or lessee.

#### PESTICIDES

Agricultural chemicals are one of the major reasons for agriculture's phenomenal ability to produce abundant and high quality food. New federal pesticide legislation places major emphasis upon user responsibility. Farmers have and must continue to use pesticides judiciously and only in the quantity necessary to assure control of disease and pests that affect agricultural products. Pesticides should not be banned unless complete proof to support such action is available.

We urge the state and federal governments to fully fund programs for intensified pest control research and further development of alternative chemicals and other control methods.

We will support necessary enabling legislation to allow the Michigan Department of Agriculture to establish and administer requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

#### AIR POLLUTION

We support an amendment to the Air Pollution Act that will exclude from the definition of air pollution dust associated with normal agricultural pursuits and natural odors associated with agricultural pursuits exercising recommended management practices. Producers need these amendments to the Act to prevent legal harassment in the name of environmental quality. Farmers will, however, continue to be subject to common nuisance laws.

#### WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

The Water Resources Commission has made rapid progress in water pollution control and is now authorized to administer the federally required permit program system. The WRC has developed a good program to protect and improve our abundant water resources.

We appreciate the efforts of WRC personnel to work with agriculture in advising and informing farmers on water pollution issues. We will continue efforts to maintain this working relationship.

We support continued authority for water pollution control in Michigan by the WRC and will work to protect such authority.

We oppose federal programs that threaten to reduce state water pollution control to a custodial level.

#### FEEDLOT STANDARDS

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 established a 1985 goal of zero water pollution for the nation. This no discharge standard has been implemented for the feedlot industry by the Environmental Protection Agency through the issuance of federal standards of performance and effluent guidelines. The standards require that all runoff from feedlots be contained by 1977 except for that caused by highly improbable rainfall events.

Pollution control standards for the feedlot industry must be based on accurate data concerning local conditions, total feedlot management factors and accurate economic considerations. The 1985 goal of zero water pollution is impractical and unattainable. The established dates in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to meet such a goal should be extended five years. This additional compliance period should be used to develop an accurate assessment of the economic impact presented by a no discharge standard and to work for substantial modifications of the law.

#### ANIMAL WASTE RECYCLING

Utilization of processed animal wastes as a feed source has been demonstrated by land grant universities to be feasible. We urge appropriate agencies to authorize the use of properly processed animal wastes as feed for livestock and poultry when handled in a sanitary manner.

#### DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION RIGHTS

Many acres of productive farmland would be lost without adequate drainage systems to handle excess water. Also the number of irrigated crop acres in Michigan has increased annually in recent years. We are opposed to legislation that would restrict agricultural drainage and any efforts to further restrict the riparian rights of farmers.

#### AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

The Agricultural Environmental Committee, composed of producers representing major commodity interests and agricultural groups, has conducted many activities to assist Michigan agriculture in meeting some of its environmental challenges. We commend the members of this committee for their involvement in this important issue to Michigan agriculture and support their activities.

#### BLACKBIRDS, STARLINGS AND OTHER NUISANCE BIRDS

Blackbirds, starlings and other birdpests are causing serious damage to crops and property in many areas. They are also a potential carrier of disease to humans and livestock. This problem is increasing over a wide geographic area.

We recommend continued intensive research efforts by state and federal agencies to find an effective method of control of these pests and an eradication program started as soon as feasible.

#### DEER HERD

We support the deer habitat improvement program of the Department of Natural Resources. The Department should continue to consider the opinion of local people when establishing its policy regarding the shooting of antlerless deer in the overall deer management program. The shining of deer should be banned at all times of the year.

#### WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

Wildlife is important to the economy of Michigan and its public recreational opportunities. Federal and state wildlife areas contribute much to the preservation of wildlife and migratory waterfowl.

Establishing new and expanding existing wildlife areas often causes serious problems. These include acquisition of good farmlands, increased crop damage to surrounding farmlands, and loss of local tax base. An example is the now inactive proposed Hayward Lake Goose Refuge in the Upper Peninsula.

We urge that practical safeguards including advanced notification to land owners in the affected and surrounding areas be established to provide equitable protection to farmers against unreasonable land acquisition for federal and state wildlife areas. Alternate site locations and consideration for continued farming of wildlife areas should be considered when establishing new or expanded present wildlife areas.

There have been many instances of crop damage by protected wildlife, such as the Sandhill crane, utilizing private farmland for feeding purposes. Compensation for proven crop damage should be provided farmers where there is a concentration of such wildlife.

#### DAIRY INSPECTION

We commend the Dairy Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture for an outstanding job of maintaining and assuring the public of high quality milk products.

We believe valuable assistance could be provided to the producer in the event his milk is rejected. For example, information on the rejection notice should include the reasons for rejection, alternative markets, at least two names and telephone numbers of persons who can be contacted 24 hours per day, and any other information and assistance helpful to the producer at such a critical time.

#### MILK HANDLING STANDARDS

We recommend that the Department of Agriculture conduct a thorough study of milk cooling facilities and practices as they relate to handling, storage, and sales facilities. A review and updating of regulations on insulating standards for milk transport tanks is also needed, as there are no apparent standards at this time.

The study and analysis should be completed by the Department of Agriculture before recommending changes in the current regulations.

#### CALFHOOD VACCINATION

Michigan presently requires calfood vaccination for brucellosis of female beef and dairy breeding stock imported into the state or sold from one farm to another within the state.

Since Michigan is brucellosis free, and one of only three states with this strict regulation, we believe we should maintain our present calfood vaccination program.

#### ANIMAL HEALTH

The income from livestock and livestock products represents the largest segment of Michigan agriculture. We are concerned about the increasing incidence of diseases such as fatal diseases of newborn calves, IBR, BVD, PI3, and shipping fever in feeder cattle.

We support research at the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station on these diseases and ask the Legislature to continue appropriations for this needed research.

#### AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS AND DRUGS

Modern agriculture cannot continue to provide sufficient quantities of high quality food and fiber to meet the nation's needs without the use of agricultural chemicals and drugs. Any undue curtailment of the safe and appropriate usage of these products will result in lower quality food and fiber at higher costs to consumers.

We believe governmental agencies, research organizations and manufacturers of chemical products must conduct comprehensive research studies about the toxicity to humans, disease causing effect, and the life duration of the chemical.

We urge that responsible agencies not issue scare warnings until they are certain a problem exists. This has happened on numerous occasions in the past and, in every instance, has harmed the market for some products of American agriculture.

In any evaluation of chemicals and drugs, the possible detrimental effects must be considered in relation to the benefits derived. Only through a complete evaluation can a balance between environmental control and chemical control be effectively attained.

#### QUARANTINE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

In trying to meet the growing need for food, farmers are doing all they can to increase food production. This often calls for new methods, production techniques and often use of chemicals.

While great care must be taken to use precaution with handling these chemicals, we recognize that sometimes accidents may occur. This may lead to quarantine of farms and possible disposal of products.

We believe that for all products except poultry the

quarantine period should not exceed sixty (60) days. By the end of that period, the governmental agency imposing the quarantine must take one of three actions:

1. Revoke the quarantine.
  2. Continue the quarantine for an additional thirty (30) days. Total quarantine should not exceed ninety (90) consecutive days.
  3. Condemn the product and dispose of it in ten (10) days.
- In the case of poultry, the total quarantine should not last more than thirty (30) days.

**LIVESTOCK RUNNING AT LARGE**

In some areas of the state there has been a major problem of livestock that have been allowed to run at large. Present laws passed in the mid 1800s are ineffective and often unenforceable. We support new legislation to regulate animals running at large, to permit law enforcement officers or landowners to take such animals into custody, to provide for compensation for damage resulting therefrom, and to prescribe penalties to aid proper enforcement.

**LIVESTOCK INDEMNIFICATION**

We live in a world dependent on numerous chemicals. All segments of society, including the homeowner, gardener, industry, commercial users, and agriculture, use various chemicals to achieve desired results.

Various agencies are charged with the responsibilities of assuring the public a safe source of food. To do so most agricultural products are monitored very carefully for chemical residue.

Products can be removed from the market and animals quarantined for indefinite periods. If the source of the contamination cannot be traced, the producer has no recourse.

We support the enactment of federal and state legislation to provide indemnification, low-interest loans or other appropriate financial assistance to producers whose products are quarantined from the market or condemned as a result of manmade disasters caused by no fault of their own.

**HONEY LABELING STANDARDS**

Beekeepers are currently faced with unfair competition from blended liquid products using the name "honey" on the label often containing only a small proportion of honey blended with other sweeteners or sugar products. We believe that any liquid product using the word "honey" on the label should be required to contain at least 51 percent table grade honey.

# Highways, Safety, and Welfare

**HIGHWAYS**

Considerable progress has been made in more equitable funding of Michigan highways. The legislation increasing the Gasoline Tax by two cents also changed funding formulas. The state highway system now receives 44.5 percent, down from 46 percent; cities and villages receive 19.8 percent, down from 20 percent; and counties receive an increase up from 34 percent to 35.7 percent. In addition, federal matching has been increased for county roads from 50-50 to 70-30. Additional funding has also been granted to local units of government for bridge construction. Local participation has been cut from 50 percent to 25 percent. One-half cent of the two-cent increase is put into a "discretionary fund" to be used for alternate transportation systems in cities throughout the state.

Spiraling inflation and the cost of maintenance and construction of highways, along with reduced revenues from decreasing gasoline use, has resulted in a more severe financial problem. According to one study (TRIP) 36 percent of the state's country roads are considered "intolerable" by federal and state engineering standards. Nearly 34,000 miles of these roads need to be improved because of ruts, lack of paving, narrowness, dangerous curves, and obsolete bridges. It will cost at least \$2.7 billion to upgrade rural roads. Michigan spends \$969 per rural mile for construction and maintenance, which is 48 percent below the national average of \$1870. Traffic on rural roads increased 600 million vehicle miles in the last five years with an additional 39 percent increase expected within the next 15 years. More than 90 percent of our roads cannot accommodate modern grain, feed and livestock trucks. In the last five years, 459 miles of rail lines have been abandoned with the possibility of hundreds of miles of other abandonment. As these lines are taken out of service, additional freight will have to move by truck over the state's rural roads.

While the interstate system in Michigan is near completion, counties have the additional costly job of fitting county roads into that system to accommodate the increased traffic on local roads caused by small industry, recreational users, etc., which create added stress on such roads and structures. Proper development of rural areas including agricultural transportation needs and industrial expansion is dependent on an adequate road system. For instance, Class A, or frost-free highway system, permits trucks to carry the same weight the year around; but to service country areas, they must often reload.

We recommend:

- Any needed increase in revenues be met through "user taxes" rather than a return to the old system of taxing property to build roads.
- No further diversion of motor vehicle funds for nonhighway uses.
- Present local matching requirements for local roads should continue to be decreased. (Most local units of government are financially unable to increase their contributions.)
- Local bridge replacement and reconstruction matching funds should be eliminated as they represent a specific problem and are extremely costly.

- Consideration be given to counties with large areas of public recreation lands, not only because of the heavy financial burden placed on such counties, but adequate roads can also be a part of an effective safety program.
- There should be no further increases in gross weight, width, and length limitation of trucks using any road system in the near future. Most systems are inadequate to carry even the existing loads.
- Routes be chosen to avoid diagonal highways and the use of productive agricultural lands where feasible.
- Multiple use of highway rights-of-way for pipelines and other utilities were feasible.
- County Road Commissions should be authorized to establish their own priority road needs. Therefore, they should be allowed to spend as much money as they deem advisable on construction and maintenance of both primary and secondary roads without the present restrictions.

Good local roads are essential if rural areas are to be developed to their fullest potential and if transportation costs are to be kept to a minimum.

**HIGHWAY SAFETY**

Accidents on highways take many lives each year; many people are injured, and much property damage occurs. To help reduce auto accidents, we recommend that:

1. Motorcycles be required to operate with headlight and identifying light on, even during the daylight hours, making them clearly visible to oncoming vehicles on all public roads.
2. Hard-top roads should be marked with center lines and side lines as an aid to safer nighttime driving.
3. STOP AHEAD signs should be placed an appropriate distance from every STOP sign where a particular hazard exists.
4. County Road Commissions clear roadsides and intersections of hazards within road rights-of-way that obstruct the view of motorists.
5. Signs within the traveled lanes of any highway be the flexible or breakaway type.
6. Red and amber reflectors be banned as mailbox and driveway markers and only blue or green markers be used.
7. Slow-moving vehicle signs be used only on vehicles as intended by law, with stricter enforcement and penalties for violators.
8. The state makes greater efforts to remove intoxicated drivers from our highways.
9. Bumpers on cars should be a standard distance from the ground.
10. The checklane system be continued, instead of the proposed mandatory annual vehicle inspection.
11. Roads not be used as headlands, because it is dangerous to farmers and hazardous to traffic.
12. All rural roads be marked with a name or number. This is especially needed during emergencies.
13. The 55 mile per hour speed limit be maintained and enforced as a safety measure and to conserve energy.

**HIGHWAY VIOLATION FINES**

Currently, no money raised from fines levied for weight and size violations on motor vehicles goes into highway funds. If the premise on which these fines are levied is that such violations cause damage to the roads, then fines from this source should be returned to road funds.

We urge legislative action be taken to return revenue received from fines levied on overweight, overlength, or overwidth vehicles be returned to the county road fund in which the infraction occurred, with the exception that revenue derived from permanently installed state owned weigh stations should be returned to the State Highway Fund.

**LAND ACQUISITION**

Private ownership and operation of land resources is in the best interests of our nation. Acquisition of fee title or interest in land by government for a public use should require individual state legislation or congressional approval following clear demonstration of the need for such use. In these cases, every effort should be made to select less valuable land. We urge that state and federal government consider leasing of needed land or taking easements rather than outright purchases.

**RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

In the exercise of "Eminent Domain" and obtaining rights-of-way for utilities, highways, and other uses we urge that procedures be as uniform as possible. This would enable property owners to better understand and use the provisions to obtain fair and equitable settlements.

**PART-TIME USE OF FARM TRUCKS**

Many farms have extra trucks that are used for only limited periods of time during the year for hauling crops from the field to the storage. They travel on public roads only short distances with most of the travel on the farm land. The rest of the year they sit idle. The licensing of such farm equipment together with the federal use tax and insurance premiums, combine to create an unnecessary high expense. We recommend legislation to establish a special category for such vehicles in the same manner as certain other types of vehicles are presently treated.

**BICYCLE SAFETY AND LICENSING**

The number of bicycles being used on Michigan streets and roads has increased greatly in the past few years. Unfortunately in too many instances, misfortune has struck owners and operators of bicycles.

Fatal accidents involving bicycles have increased. The theft of bikes have reached epidemic proportions.

It is evident that action needs to be taken to curb these happenings. Safety devices need to be installed on bikes. Riders need to practice safer riding habits. A means of identifying bikes for the prevention of theft and reporting of unsafe operation needs to be developed.

We will support legislation which establishes realistic safety equipment on bicycles including flags and reflectors

as well as a state coordinated program of licensing bicycles administered by local government.

**GLASS AND METAL BEVERAGE CONTAINERS**

Glass and metal beverage containers are a nuisance and a hazard. They are more than just "litter."

Farm implement tires, auto and truck tires, livestock and crops have been damaged or destroyed by such containers, much of it in the form of throwaway bottles.

Time lost as a result of damage to a tire can mean many dollars of crop loss.

The seriousness of the problem has been recognized throughout the state.

Glass and metal beverage containers are thrown away when emptied and are not picked up for salvage because they have little or no return value. Our county and local roads and adjoining fields and woodlots are favored spots for beer parties and rubbish dumps.

Legislation has been introduced to establish a mandatory return value on certain beverage containers but has not yet been adopted.

We will continue to seek relief through the use of plastic type decomposable containers and a required return value on beverage containers.

We encourage all Farm Bureau members to actively report and assist in the prosecution of persons contributing to the litter problem. Law enforcement agencies should rigidly enforce anti-litter laws.

Recycling of many products has been found to be less expensive than producing a new product. Due to our dwindling resources we strongly support and encourage public officials and private enterprise at all levels to initiate recycling programs to accommodate the waste from our affluent society.

**SNOWMOBILES AND ATV'S**

Many property owners report that the rapidly increasing number of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles are causing damage to crops, young trees and fences on private property. We should be aware that the Horton Trespass Act has been amended to include these vehicles.

Snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, trail bikes and similar machines should be covered by mandatory liability and property damage insurance when operating on property other than that of the owner.

We support efforts of the Department of Natural Resources to develop more trails for these machines on public lands.

**FIREARMS CONTROL**

We believe our laws should place more emphasis on the crime and the criminal rather than on the gun.

1. We oppose further expansion of registration of firearms.
2. We would support mandatory imprisonment of any person convicted of a felony involving use of firearms.

**WELFARE**

Welfare costs have been spiraling in Michigan for some time now totaling nearly \$1.7 billion. A study recently conducted in Michigan by HEW confirms that millions of dollars can be saved through reform of the administrative process.

We support welfare for those who need it, recognizing that there are people who cannot sustain life without assistance. However, we believe that the granting of welfare to strikers is not in keeping with the basic philosophy of any welfare program. We further suggest that work projects be set up to permit the welfare recipients to earn at least a part of the aid. Such projects might be used to combat pollution and conserve our natural resources. All members of society should be encouraged to sustain their self-respect and self-esteem by being allowed to earn as much of their livelihood as possible.

Comprehensive work and training programs can be useful in aiding people to find jobs. County work programs can also be useful as there is much public work that needs to be done that perhaps cannot be achieved in any other way. Welfare administration should continually be evaluated to be sure that only those in need receive aid.

**FOOD STAMPS**

We support the food stamp program as a means of helping those persons who are in need of assistance. However, we believe that there should be a complete investigation of the present procedures for distributing food stamps and that the procedures be revised so that equitable rules can be enforced. We further believe that college students, persons on strike, or persons who refuse to work when offered employment should not be eligible for food stamps or surplus food commodities.

A weakness of the current program is that many recipients do not have an understanding of proper nutrition. The Extension Service has proven its capability of providing educational information to persons for many years. We recommend that similar educational programs be established for persons receiving food stamps and that participation in these educational programs be a prerequisite for receiving food stamps.

**MEDICAL MALPRACTICE**

We are alarmed with the increase in malpractice suits being filed against doctors. This trend is causing some established, well qualified doctors to leave the profession. It is also discouraging young people from entering the field of medicine.

Malpractice insurance costs have also increased at a rapid rate. These costs are reflected in the charges made by doctors.

Michigan Farm Bureau will work with the Michigan State Medical Society, Michigan State Bar Association and the Michigan Health Council to study ways to reduce the number of malpractice suits and provide for reasonableness of settlements.

# Marketing and Bargaining

## MARKETING AND BARGAINING RIGHTS

The Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act (Public Act 344 of 1972) has been in actual operation now for approximately one year (appointment of the Board and development of rules and procedures took nearly a year to complete). The Act has been utilized by the Michigan Asparagus Growers and the Red Tart Cherry Growers, the Potato Growers and Kraut Cabbage Growers, all divisions of MACMA. The asparagus growers division marketing committee negotiated the sales arrangements and price under the provisions of PA 344. This included the use of Joint Settlement (Arbitration) Committee to resolve the differences of sales terms between the processors and the growers marketing committee. The Red Tart Cherry Growers were able to utilize PA 344 and successfully establish the 1974 field price. It has become quite obvious to the growers that the formalized method of resolving price and sales terms differences can be handled efficiently and effectively under PA 344.

The Potato Growers and Kraut Cabbage growers became accredited after their 1974 contract terms had been negotiated and will therefore be using the provisions of the Act in 1975 for the first time. Growers of processing apples, plums, grapes and pickling cucumbers are making plans to become accredited as soon as possible.

Because of the nearly one-year delay in implementation and because the opponents of this law have tried everything possible to delay and cripple the implementation of this act including litigation pending in the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, we urge that the expiration date of the act be extended beyond the September 1, 1976 expiration date to assure adequate time for the act to prove its worth.

## STATE EGG PROMOTION

Marketing conditions over the years have caused financial hardships for egg producers. The Michigan Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act of 1965 provides a means of developing a state egg promotion program to help alleviate some of these problems.

Farm Bureau has a long-standing policy of encouraging self-help programs. We support the development of an educational and marketing program, and urge producer participation in a referendum to implement a state egg promotion program under the current enabling legislation.

## PRICE LATER AGREEMENTS

Producers delivering grain to elevators may enter into price later agreements. Such agreements allow the producer to obtain post season price increases and enable the elevator to move grain rapidly that would otherwise plug storage facilities. However, price later agreements do not constitute a warehouse receipt and therefore offer no protection against producer loss. We will support legislation to provide adequate protection to producers who deliver grain under price later agreements.

## FEED LAW

Michigan's laws licensing and regulating the manufacture and distribution of commercial feeds are obsolete by many standards. We support new legislation to update Michigan's feed laws and recommend that they be in conformance with the national uniform feed law which has been adopted by twenty or more states.

## FOREST PRODUCT PRICES

Nearly 52 percent of Michigan's 36.3 million acres of land is forest of which all but three percent is commercial forest land. The forests in the state are concentrated in private ownership. Farmers and other non-industrial private owners hold 54 percent of the commercial forest land.

Adequate forest product price and market information is important to the many farmers and other individual forestry producers in Michigan. These private owners who may sell products yearly or only occasionally as the trees mature, do not have current forest product price information like forestry product buyers who have daily contact with the market.

We support the publication of a current forest product price and market report on a quarterly basis by the Michigan Department of Agriculture Crop Reporting Service in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources.

## BONDING OF BUYERS

Fruit and vegetable producers have little assurance of payment for produce other than the past reputation of a buyer. Many producers sell a large quantity of produce to one buyer. If that buyer defaults in making payment, the producer faces economic ruin. We support legislation to require contract buyers to post adequate performance bond for the financial protection of producers on their marketing operations.

## SOYBEAN RESEARCH AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Soybean acreage is increasing in our state. This crop is an important part of Michigan's farm income. We believe the research on this crop should be intensified at Michigan State University. We support a checkoff for soybean market development and research. Monies collected could be used to promote the sales of soybeans overseas and for the testing of new varieties adaptable to Michigan soils and climatic conditions and for soybean disease, weed, and insect control research.

## PROMPT PAYMENT FOR EGGS

Instances occur in Michigan where egg producers are not paid for their eggs for up to 30 days after the buyer has taken delivery.

We support state legislation that will require buyers of eggs to make full payment within ten days of the date of purchase unless other provisions are made by written contract.

## PRICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

At times, fruit and vegetable growers have had to deliver produce to processors without the benefit of knowing what price the processor is going to pay and later find that the prices paid by the processor are unrealistic. We urge the Michigan Legislature to enact legislation that would require fruit and vegetable processors to post prices to be paid for fruit and vegetables a reasonable length of time prior to the beginning of the delivery date of the products for which the price would apply. The posted prices should include the date on which the prices are effective. If new prices are subsequently posted which are lower than the previous prices, the new prices should not apply to any produce delivered or contracted before the posting of the new prices.

## PAYMENT FOR PRODUCE

We deplore the practice by some fruit and vegetable processors and handlers of operating on growers' money due to delayed payment for produce delivered. Sometimes this period extends for as long as a year or more. Growers must pay farm workers immediately after work is performed and are required to pay for other costs of production within a set period of time in accordance with normal business practices.

We support legislation that would require processors and handlers purchasing fruits and vegetables from growers to make full payment within thirty days of the date of purchase, unless other provisions are made by written contract.

## FILING OF PRODUCTION CONTRACTS

Michigan ranks high as a producer of processing vegetables. This important segment of Michigan agriculture should be expanded. Two of our major competitors, Wisconsin and North Carolina, have legislation which requires processors to file proof of financial responsibility and contract terms with the Department of Agriculture. In both states farmers, processors, and the industry have benefited from this requirement; and the industry has grown.

We recommend that all processors and handlers offering contracts to producers for the production of vegetables be required to file a copy of the contract offered, including contract terms and financial rating of the contractor with the Michigan Department of Agriculture before offering contracts to producers.

## MARKETING ASSOCIATION FEE COLLECTION

Farmers are joining cooperative marketing associations to improve their income and become better informed about marketing. With the expansion of marketing activities into previously unorganized commodities, there is need for a system of marketing service fee payment that will provide adequate and sound financing of the association.

Some processors have recognized the value of marketing services and the information provided and have cooperated in the collection of members' marketing service fees upon the association's and members' request. Other processors have refused this accommodation even though they purchase members' commodities.

We favor legislation requiring processors and other buyers to deduct marketing service fees from cooperative marketing association members' receipts upon official notification by the association verifying that such growers are members of the association and have voluntarily consented to the deduction.

A uniform system of collecting marketing service fees at the time of sale could provide a simple, efficient procedure that would benefit the association, the members, and the processors. These deductions need to be made promptly and then forwarded to the association within a reasonable length of time. The legislation should be similar to the legislation in force in New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Idaho.

## STATE ENABLING ACT

The Michigan Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act, PA 232, passed in 1965 provides uniform procedures permitting producers of any commodity to establish a program for product promotion, market development, and information, research, product standards and inspection, determination of surplus and producer assessments. The producers of apples and cherries have adopted programs using one or more of the permitted provisions. Producers of other commodities are also considering programs. The Act contains the following provisions which we support:

1. Producer petition of 25 percent or 200, whichever is less, to initiate a referendum for adoption, amendment or termination of a program.
2. The right of individual producers to vote in a referendum on initiation, amendment or termination or any promotion program for a commodity which they produce.
3. In order for a referendum on any proposal to be approved, either of the following conditions must be met:
  - a. If 66-2/3 percent or more by number of those voting representing 51 percent or more of the volume of the affected commodity produced by those voting assent to the proposal.
  - b. If 51 percent or more by number of those voting representing 66-2/3 percent or more of the volume of the affected commodity produced by those voting assent to the proposal.
4. Review and referenda during each 5th year to determine whether the program should be continued, amended or terminated, or at any time upon petition of the producers with voting requirements the same as those required for initiation of the program.
5. If producers, through a referendum, enact a program, all producers must abide by the majority and all contribute to the program.

We believe that producers of any commodity wishing to promote their product should do so within the broad and uniform provisions of the act. We will work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to assure that this

enabling legislation continues to be available to producers wishing to establish such programs.

## EXPANSION OF COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives were organized by farmers to serve the farmers. They have become an essential marketing tool and suppliers of production inputs. To remain efficient, effective and viable and serve modern agriculture, they must expand both physical facilities and their organization structure.

There are several examples of regional marketing cooperatives involved in both buying and/or selling various commodities. Examples include: C.F. Industries, which provided fertilizer during a period of severe shortage; National Cooperatives, supply T.B.A. items; Mid-States Terminal at Toledo, Ohio, which is owned by four statewide Cooperatives (Michigan Elevator Exchange, Indiana Farm Bureau, Ohio Farmers, and Landmark). Through Mid-States, a significant amount of corn, wheat and soybeans is sold to foreign markets. We commend the cooperatives involved in this effort and urge the continuation of expansion of their efforts to serve farmers.

We commend local cooperatives who have joined with other local cooperatives in expanding facilities to offer better services to their respective members. We urge other local cooperatives to evaluate their future needs and expand facilities to continue serving agriculture.

We urge all cooperatives to consider further expansion, to improve coordination, handling and marketing and bargaining strength, thus giving producers their fair advantage in the marketplace.

We urge cooperatives to aggressively search for and expand into foreign markets. We produce much of the food for the world—thus, food is our best bargaining tool, which we need to use to our best advantage.

# Labor

## FARM LABOR

We are encouraged by the current concern and public awareness with regard to special problems related to seasonal farm workers. In the past, these special problems have been recognized only by farmer-employers. Farmers have, for years, carried the burden of providing not only jobs for these people, but have also tried to provide housing and improve living conditions during the work period. They have increased farm wages at a faster rate than most other wage rates. In addition to increased wages, many farmers pay transportation costs for workers from their home states to the work state and provide loans and pay advances to support workers who reach the work area during times of work shortages.

Even with the recent gains farm employers have provided for these seasonal employees, there are still problems inherent in migrating from state to state each year, particularly for those with a low general educational level and when a language barrier is sometimes present. In light of these facts:

1. We commend leaders in government and civic organizations for realizing the presence of these special problems.
2. We encourage members of the Congress and the Legislature and leaders in agencies of the federal and state government to be informed of the true agricultural labor situation so that understanding, reason, and knowledge of the farm labor system and the agricultural situation will guide the development of legislation and implementation of programs dealing with farming and farm labor.

## OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT

Michigan farmers share the national concern to provide safe working conditions for farm employees. We urge that Congress make it known to the administrators of OSHA, by whatever means necessary:

1. That the education of employers and employees to avoid and prevent accidents is being almost entirely ignored.
2. That "enforcement only" as now being conducted is forcing small business to curtail or close up, resulting in the loss of employment.
3. A basic premise of the Act is that employers know what is required of them. We believe this to be a faulty premise.
4. That education, training, and consultation service should be provided to employers to prevent accidents and injuries.
5. We believe that the general duty clause of the Act should be eliminated or substantially modified.
6. We believe that economic impact studies should be conducted and considered before any safety standards are proposed.
7. We believe that there should be realistic regulations dealing with agriculture and the OSHA Act.
8. That adequate time is not provided by OSHA to respond to the issuance of new standards and regulations. We believe that the 30-day limit should be extended to 120 days.
9. We recommend to OSHA that all safety standards apply to new equipment manufacturers and not to existing equipment. We feel that the normal turnover of equipment will put these safety measures in use in the very near future without added expense right now.
10. We recommend the establishment of a Safety Advisory Committee to MI-OSHA at the county level for the purpose of developing safety and operating guidelines as applied to agricultural machinery and equipment.
11. We resolve that unless there are more realistic safety standards for agriculture by OSHA, we would ask for total repeal of the OSHA Act.

## MI-OSHA

We commend the members of the Michigan legislature for recognizing the unique problems of agriculture by providing for an advisory committee of which at least half of the members shall be persons who devote a major por-

tion of their time to agricultural operations. The Occupational Safety Standards Commission shall consult with the advisory committee before a safety standard is made applicable to agricultural operations.

We oppose any provision of MI-OSHA that would be more stringent or restrictive than the present federal Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act. While we recognize that the employer has a responsibility to his employees and must meet the safety standards, we believe that the employee also has a responsibility and should be subject to penalty for failure to observe the safety standards.

Violations discovered at the first inspection of the operations of a farm should not ordinarily be subject to penalty. A summary of the violations should be supplied the employer with an opportunity for the employer to correct the situation within a reasonable period of time. It is imperative that judgment be exercised, particularly in those instances where capital expenditures are required to eliminate violations.

#### OSHA-EPA

We recognize the leadership of Michigan Farm Bureau and MASA for their vigorous response in opposition to the Emergency Pesticide Reentry Standards proposed by OSHA and the EPA Hearings related to reentry standards.

We urge continued surveillance and opposition to all actions by OSHA and EPA which could cause severe economic hardship to producers.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS IN AGRICULTURE

We believe that minors should not be deprived of educational opportunities. However, during the time when regular schools are not in session, we believe that it is desirable that minors be allowed to work in agriculture, except those occupations which have been declared hazardous by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor.

The declaration of certain hazardous occupations by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor is acceptable. We oppose any further restrictions upon the employment of youth in agriculture.

The programs administered by the Agricultural Extension Service and vocational agriculture teachers for young workers have demonstrated that workers 14 and 15 years of age can be trained successfully in the safe operation of tractors and farm machinery. We recommend continuation of these training programs.

Whereas the recent change in federal child labor laws which denies children under 12 years of age the right to accompany their parents on the daily work routine, creates a labor problem for farmers and hardship for the parents and is a disservice to the child in that they are not allowed to develop work patterns for later years. We urge Farm Bureau work to oppose this type of regulations.

We oppose any attempt to bring agriculture under the Michigan Juvenile Employment Act.

#### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Employers of farm workers in Michigan are having difficulty in adjusting to the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act as it applies to agricultural workers. It imposes a financial hardship upon farm employers who must meet competition from producers in other states where such coverage is not required.

It is recognized that Workmen's Compensation programs are essential in today's society; however, we believe that the base is too high. The rates and minimum premiums are established by the Insurance Rating Bureau, and the minimum wage base of \$2,500 is set at a level far above many farms' payrolls.

We will work to lower the base rate on which minimum premiums are calculated.

We commend Farm Bureau Insurance Group for providing the leadership to reduce premiums by reclassification and division of payroll for agricultural employers and urge Farm Bureau to continue to develop ways and means to further reduce premium costs.

#### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (RETROACTIVITY)

On December 21, 1972, the Supreme Court of the State of Michigan determined that application of agricultural exclusions for certain farm employees was unconstitutional on the basis that they were discriminatory. It was at this point felt that agricultural employers were required under the law to provide Workmen's Compensation coverage for their employees on the same basis as other private employers. In determining that the law as it was then written was discriminatory and therefore unconstitutional the Court left many questions unanswered.

We will continue our efforts in opposition to retroactive inclusion under Workmen's Compensation in the time period of 1967 through 1972. We do not believe that during that time period farmers were legally required to have full Workmen's Compensation insurance. Several suits have been filed for compensation for injuries sustained during this period; many more are possible.

#### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION [BENEFIT PAYMENTS]

In the Appeal's Court ruling of August 28, 1973 on the Jolliff case, the court decided that the legislative intent was to provide that minimum benefits should be increased on the same basis that maximum benefits have been increased each year.

Workmen's Compensation premium rates will have to be raised to cover the additional cost of claims.

If disabled workers benefits are too high, relative to what they might earn they may see no reason to return to work.

Employers may respond by not hiring part-time employees, then these workers become unemployed and may have to apply for some type of public assistance. Farm, food service, retail stores, hospitals, school systems, and many other classes of employers are being affected by this court decision.

We believe that at no time should compensation payments to a workman exceed that worker's average

weekly wage. We urge consideration by the proper authorities to correct this situation and provide appropriate benefits for workers with low average weekly earnings.

#### BOYCOTTS OF FOOD PRODUCTS

We are opposed to food boycott techniques which result in the removal of products from the marketplace.

We would emphasize that these methods of coercion and harassment were successfully employed on California produce and that the same tactic could be extended to any and every identifiable agricultural product.

No form of combat against a nation seems as misguided as the use of the secondary boycott when applied to food production, processing, and distribution. It is rarely employed to insure justice to mistreated workers. It has been used by some labor leaders to force union membership upon farm workers who have repeatedly rejected voluntary unionism and to force recognition in union jurisdictional disputes which penalizes farm employers, farm workers and consumers.

We shall continue to provide factual material concerning food boycotts for distribution by whatever means possible to refute the claims made by those who support food boycotts.

#### LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

Farm employers are concerned over the lack of laws and procedures to deal effectively with the problems associated with farm-labor unionization.

We oppose the inclusion of agriculture under the National Labor Relations Act since this act was developed to deal with industrial labor problems.

We favor federal legislation which would provide for farm workers to decide questions of representation or rejection of a union within the following major guidelines:

1. Secret ballot for workers conducted by legally authorized election boards.
2. Prohibition of secondary boycotts.
3. Administration by an independent farm labor relations board.
4. A requirement that a union file notice of intent to strike and an option to farmers in such cases to avoid a strike by calling for arbitration of the dispute.
5. Preservation of state laws relating to compulsory unionism.
6. Authorization for farmers to obtain damages for unlawful strikes, demonstrations, pickets, or boycotts.

We urge that proper authorities be apprised of the present situation so that proper legislative and legal action may be taken to protect the rights of producers, farm workers, and consumers.

#### MINIMUM WAGE

Minimum wages should not be increased during a time of high unemployment. Increasing wages discourages those employers who have work available from hiring employees.

Increasing minimum wage rates will, no doubt, hasten mechanization. Mechanization often reduces employment opportunities for unskilled farm workers.

It would appear that the use of successive increases in minimum wage rates as a tool for alleviating poverty among farm workers may have some undesirable side effects. Alternative methods for relieving poverty among farm workers should be considered.

The federal minimum wage law does not require overtime pay for agricultural workers; therefore, to keep Michigan agriculture competitive, no overtime for agriculture should be required in the "Michigan Minimum Wage Law."

At no time should the State Minimum Wage rates exceed the Federal Minimum Wage in order to prevent Michigan farmers from being put at an uncompetitive wage disadvantage.

#### PIECE RATES

Minimum wage provisions must be flexible to fit the variable situations found in agricultural employment. Piece rates as a method of payment are essential to provide employment opportunities for family groups, retirees, and workers who have handicaps which may prevent them from obtaining other employment, and at the same time provide proficient workers much higher earning opportunities than hourly rates provide.

We believe the present Michigan piece rate system is fair and equitable. We urge the U.S. Department of Labor to recognize the value of a piece rate system for agriculture.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Unemployment insurance is a Social Insurance Program to compensate employees for their loss of earnings at times of involuntary unemployment.

An unemployment insurance program which would include agricultural workers should be nationwide in scope. Michigan farmers must compete in U.S. and world markets. Therefore, we would oppose a state program to include agricultural workers under the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Program if other states were not compelled by federal legislation to adopt similar unemployment insurance programs covering agricultural workers.

Administration of unemployment insurance programs should be subject to continuous review and scrutiny to prevent abuses, particularly the payment of benefits to those who can and should obtain employment.

#### SEASONAL LABOR HOUSING

We recommend that all migrant labor camps be inspected by trained employees of the State Health Department, so that all camps will be licensed according to the same interpretation of the rules and regulations as provided by Public Act 289.

We commend the Michigan Legislature and the Governor of the State of Michigan for recognizing that there are special problems with respect to housing for seasonal farm workers. The passage of Public Act 197, Public Acts of 1970, has provided much needed assistance to farmers who provide housing for seasonal workers.

We commend the State Health Department for the ef-

ficient manner in which it has administered this grant program.

We urge continued funding of this Act until all seasonal labor camps can be brought to the standard of the State Health Department.

At the present time, Public Act 289 places the full responsibility of maintaining a migrant labor camp upon the employer. We urge that Public Act 289 be amended to require the occupants of a farm labor camp to assume the responsibility for the misuse of a housing unit during their occupancy.

Obsolete, unusable, and abandoned farm labor housing should be destroyed.

We recommend that regulations be adopted which would require workers to leave a camp within a reasonable time (one week) after the work on the farm is completed.

We recommend that the provisions of Public Act 289 be adopted as the safety standard for farm labor housing by MI-OSHA.

#### EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PROGRAMS

Admitting that there are still some crops which have not yielded to mechanization, until mechanization can be adapted to all crops, there will be a need for hand labor if production of these, non-mechanized, crops is to be continued.

We recognize that there are certain jobs and kinds of employment on the farm that U.S. citizens find undesirable and often refuse to perform and that foreign workers will accept this kind of employment.

We urge that legislation be enacted to make the temporary importation of unskilled laborers for crop harvest and other field work, a legal method to provide for the employment of foreign workers to supplement available farm labor in order to maintain full production of crops.

Farm employers do not have access to the scientific technology necessary to determine the validity of passports, work permits, or other evidence often presented as proof of legal entry. Therefore, agricultural employers should not be held liable or responsible for the burden of proof of the legal status of their employees.

#### LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Public Law 93-355 amends the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 by creating a new title X.

The bill creates a legal services program for the "poor" in the form of a nonprofit corporation with no members, known as the "Legal Service Corporation". It is not a governmental agency in a technical sense but will be created by government, funded by government, and certain controls will be exercised by government.

The Corporation will be controlled by a Board of Directors, consisting of eleven voting members appointed by the President with consent of the Senate - no more than six from the same political party. A majority must be members of the legal profession.

We recommend that the Legal Service Corporation provide:

1. Effective and enforceable provisions to prohibit the use of Corporation funds by the Corporation or by grantees of the Corporation to promote, assist, or encourage civil disturbances; strikes, boycotts, or political legislative action.
2. Authority to the courts to award costs and attorney's fees to successful defendants.
3. No suit may be filed through Legal Services by anyone until all administrative procedures available to him have been exhausted.

Control and guidance at the state and local level is quite limited. The Governor of Michigan will be requested to appoint a nine member advisory council to advise the corporation's Board of Directors at the national level relative to local needs and problem areas.

We urge that some members of the State Advisory Council be appointed who are aware of and knowledgeable relative to agricultural issues and problems.

## Farm Bureau

Our Farm Bureau is a farm organization. It must be an aggressive organization geared to serving commercial farmers with bold and imaginative programs. The building and maintaining of a bold and aggressive farm organization depends heavily on attracting the best in farmer leadership. This leadership must be active at all levels of the organization, from community groups through state officers. The organization must maintain the best type of employees to carry out the wishes of the members.

While programs should be geared to serving commercial agriculture, membership opportunity should be provided for all people interested in agriculture. Appropriate safeguards must be maintained to limit the voting rights to committed farmers. The distinction between regular and associate members must be made clear and concise. County Boards must observe the spirit of such a definition which should be carried in the relationship agreement.

#### MEMBERSHIP GOAL

As a result of dedicated work on the part of hundreds of Farm Bureau members, membership in Michigan Farm Bureau has increased for seven consecutive years. Growth in membership is fundamental to the strength and well-being of our organization. Even though the responsibility for membership growth lies primarily with County Farm Bureaus, we encourage Farm Bureau leadership at all levels to keep the importance of membership work on a first priority basis.

We approve the 1975 membership goal of one-member increase for each County Farm Bureau, as well as a one-member increase for Michigan Farm Bureau.

#### MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

Our organization is one to be proud of. As members, it is our responsibility to uphold and promote a positive attitude toward the programs and policies we adopt.

Farm Bureau is a democratic organization with every

member having the right to participate in making recommendations and decisions. This opportunity to participate is available to members by attending Community Group Meetings, County Annual Meetings, and the State Annual Meeting. We are pleased that our members take this responsibility seriously.

We point out that this right to participate carries with it the responsibility to support the decisions of the majority. This requires a sense of organization discipline which can only be self-imposed by the member.

We encourage our members to discuss, disagree, and recommend changes in the policy when these actions are appropriate. **WE ALSO REQUEST THAT MEMBERS GIVE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT TO ALL MATTERS OF FARM BUREAU POLICY AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN PROPERLY APPROVED.**

#### FARM BUREAU WOMEN & OPERATION UNDERSTANDING

Farm Bureau members constitute one of the largest consumer groups in the state. Farm Bureau members probably have much more at stake in the consumer movement than any other group. They buy great quantities of steel, rubber, and many products for their farm businesses and are most concerned with the quality of these products. They are acutely aware of the cost-price squeeze that farmers find themselves in because of spiraling production costs and the great fluctuation of farm product prices. Farm Bureau Women have made progress in discussing this with urban counterparts through a Speakers' Bureau, shopping mall displays, and discussing agriculture in the schools.

We need to recognize the need for a group of energetic, informed women to start a potentially vital source of benefit for our agricultural status at this time. We believe it is possible to train a group of women to represent farmers as a consumer group for our state Farm Bureau.

#### FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMER PROGRAM

The Young Farmer Program is a proven method of surfacing and developing effective leaders. Effective leadership development programs will continue to grow in importance as the demand for skilled leaders in our organization grows.

Young farmers are eager for meaningful involvement in the vital issues confronting agriculture. We must seek to satisfy that desire through involvement of qualified young farmers in all Farm Bureau activities.

A Young Farmer Program can only be successful if given the strong and active support of county leaders. This support can best be shown by taking an active interest in the appointing and guiding of a Young Farmer Committee which is advisory and responsible to the County Farm Bureau Board. Steps should be taken to provide young farmers easy access to participation in ALL Farm Bureau programs.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

We are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau has been a leader in bringing the story of agriculture to our nonfarm population. The understanding and support of urban people on issues which affect our industry is vitally important. We believe that this understanding and support, and a growing appreciation for an efficient, productive agriculture, has increased this past year because of an aggressive, effective information program on both the state and national levels of our organization.

This support by the nonfarm population has been shown by the legislative accomplishments made on behalf of farmers in the past year. These include land use legislation, tax reform and agricultural policy which gives farmers freedom to produce.

We are proud that Farm Bureau has a reputation as a reliable, credible news source and the fact that our organization is recognized as the spokesman for agriculture in our state. The "Agricultural Backgrounders" held with county Farm Bureau leaders and their local news media were especially effective in establishing a working relationship with members of the press on the local level.

Daily and weekly information regarding agriculture and Farm Bureau, through radio programming, a weekly editorial column, and news releases have continued to receive widespread acceptance. We are proud that television stations turn to Farm Bureau when they desire information on agriculture. We are pleased that our leaders and members have appeared on news programs, in documentaries, and as guests on many other types of television shows. Slide-tape productions and the movie, "Man and the Land," have been effective in informing both our members and the general public, and have done much to gain support for our programs and policies. They have stimulated pride in our organization.

The most effective public relations for agriculture, however, is done by farmers themselves. We are proud of the Farm Bureau Women Speakers' Bureau project. We congratulate many counties for carrying on activities such as Rural-Urban meetings, farm visits, working with schools, and participating in local projects.

We are especially pleased with the increased activity of our county Farm Bureau Information Committees. We congratulate them for their successful efforts to project an image of agricultural and community leadership for their county Farm Bureau organizations. We urge continued information activity at the county level, with regular communications to both members and the public.

#### CITIZENSHIP

Good citizenship means more than voting, oratory, and displaying patriotic symbols. It encourages being informed on issues, willingness to defend and to explain our system of government, and courage to act within our political system.

We, in Farm Bureau, have conducted many activities to equip persons to meet their citizenship responsibilities. We will continue to do so. These include activities such as Legislative Seminars, Meet the Candidate Meetings, Young People's Citizenship Seminars, and Heritage Tours.

We are increasingly concerned with the apathy and unanchored individualism that is developing in our

citizenry. "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." We, in Farm Bureau, cannot solve all of our problems through legislative efforts; but each individual Farm Bureau member should and must become politically active in local government and join civic organizations to put forth sound ideas for the betterment of the entire society.

We encourage our members, not as representatives of Farm Bureau, but as concerned citizens, to actively campaign, endorse and support political candidates of their choice. Political activity will greatly enhance our own individual members credibility with our elected governmental officials with the goal of greater implementation of Farm Bureau policy.

The year 1976 is a Bicentennial Anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. We urge every Farm Bureau member to join in preparing to make this celebration a success and reawaken the pride, patriotism, and love of country which has been so sadly lacking the past few years.

#### MEMBER INFORMATION

We commend MFB and MASA for an outstanding job of keeping farmer-members informed about new legislation and government regulations.

There is a continual flow of new regulations being issued by various government agencies such as OSHA, EPA, the Department of Labor and others. It is a vital function of MFB and MASA to act as a watchdog on these new regulations, make every effort to ensure that they are practical and reasonable, and to get the information to farmers promptly so they can operate within the law.

#### WE COMMEND FOR UNSELFISH SERVICE

Many of our fellow farmers are serving agriculture and our State as members of boards, commissions, committees, and advisory groups on which agricultural representation is important to all of us.

Often this service is rendered without any reimbursement for time and expenses involved.

We commend these people and recognize them for their unselfish service to agriculture.

We especially commend our dedicated County Farm Bureau leaders and dedicated staff members for their efforts, many times beyond the call of duty. An excellent example is the service rendered during the current meat promotion. Their assistance and guidance has helped make the Michigan Farm Bureau the effective voice of farmers.

#### SERVICE TO MEMBER PROGRAMS

It is important for Michigan Farm Bureau to promote new programs which will provide services to Farm Bureau members only. We appreciate the aggressive efforts of our Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors in seeking and evaluating potential new programs.

We commend Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative for developing and financing the \$5 member certificates issued with every 1975 membership. We urge every member to take advantage of this certificate and redeem it at his FBS-FPC outlet.

We commend the Michigan Farm Bureau Board and the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company for developing the new Reward program. This program will be offered in early 1975 and will provide a \$200 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any persons committing theft, arson or vandalism on the property of enrolled members.

#### MEMBER-TO-MEMBER MARKETING

The sale of Michigan fresh and frozen fruits, Florida citrus, HiDensity Orange juice, and other products has pioneered a new member-to-member marketing concept. These programs have received good support from Farm Bureau members throughout the state and nation.

We appreciate the MACMA efforts to expand the direct sale of top quality products to Farm Bureau members through the cooperation of its newest division, Michigan Certified Farm Markets.

We urge the sales program of Michigan products to Farm Bureau members in other states be expanded.

Member-to-Member marketing holds a great future potential as a market for our products and as a service to our members, but we must never forget that high quality control is vital to success.

#### COMMODITY DIVISION APPROACH

Farm Bureau was formed in 1919 to provide farmers a means of dealing with the differences among commodity interests. The purpose then, as now, of Farm Bureau was to organize diversified operations of farm and ranch families into a cohesive group. Once organized, they could analyze their problems, formulate policies, and take action.

Today, Farm Bureau continues to develop ways to let diversified farm operators unite for action. The Commodity Division Approach (CDA) is one way Farm Bureau members can address commodity issues with one united voice.

The American Farm Bureau Federation has established several Commodity Advisory Committees under Phase I of CDA. Michigan Farm Bureau has representatives on the Beef, Cattle, Swine, Poultry, Dairy, Sugar, Feed Grains, Soybeans, Deciduous Fruit and Berries, and Vegetables and Potatoes Committees.

Under Phase II of CDA, special staff assistance and programs such as commodity tours, meetings, and special newsletters are provided division members. The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors has adopted Phase II of the Commodity Division approach for soybeans and dairy. The first commodity division of the Michigan Farm Bureau, in soybeans, has now been established. County Farm Bureaus in the major soybean-producing areas of Michigan have established County Soybean Divisions. State and County Soybean Action Committees have been named and are functioning.

Commodity divisions are organized within the Farm Bureau structure. It is expected their activities will be more extensive than the present commodity committees. They will not conduct marketing-bargaining functions.

As programs and activities are developed by the commodity division, they should be financed by division members in addition to regular Farm Bureau dues.

We believe the Commodity Division Approach is an effective organizational method to serve the specialized needs of members.

#### GRAIN AND BEAN MARKETING

We commend the Michigan Elevator Exchange division of Farm Bureau Services for maintaining aggressive leadership in the state in grain and bean marketing. We especially note their effective efforts in the development of a container terminal at Saginaw, their continued success in foreign sales of Michigan navy beans, and their own leased rail cars to make up trains to move grain. Increased use of the 65-100 car trains has enabled them to better keep pace with today's farm harvest.

The new MEE "hot line" which permits any farmer to call this number and receive up-to-the-minute market reports is a valuable service to farmers and should be made a toll free number. The market report should be expanded to include an analysis.

#### MICHIGAN GRAPE INDUSTRY

The Michigan wine and grape industry is regulated by Government Agencies including the Liquor Control Commission, the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration resulting in many governing rules and regulations. While these are intended to be helpful to this industry and the entire State economy, the industry faces many problems in its efforts to expand.

We urge a study by Michigan Farm Bureau of the wine laws and regulations to assure that they are in the best interest of the Michigan grape growers.

#### TRANSPORTATION STUDY

The delegates at last year's annual meeting requested that a transportation study be conducted by MFB and FBS to study the total transportation shortage and physical handling and delivery system for field crops.

A progress report on this transportation study indicates that a Farm Bureau Services-Michigan Farm Bureau committee has reviewed the needs and consulted with the Agricultural Experiment Station staff at Michigan State University. Groundwork has been laid for a comprehensive grain handling and transportation study. Due to the magnitude of this study, it will take one to two years to complete.

We commend our staff and the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station for their efforts on this project.

#### IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS

We are pleased that the AFBF "Speedline" communication system between all State Farm Bureaus and the American Farm Bureau Federation is functioning effectively. This new system provides a fast, effective means of communication and will increase the effectiveness of our Farm Bureau.

We request the Michigan Farm Bureau to study the feasibility of establishing an improved communication system with County Farm Bureaus. Such a system could provide current market information and analysis information for members.

#### MARKETING PROGRESS

We recommend MACMA for aggressively seeking and obtaining accreditation as the marketing agent for several commodities under the new Michigan Marketing and Bargaining Act, P.A. 344. In this first year, the asparagus and cherry divisions actually marketed their crops under the Act. We are gratified that the provisions of the Act proved a practical means of arriving at fair market prices. In the case of asparagus, the arbitration provision of the Act was successfully used to solve grade differences through a joint settlement committee.

We further commend the MACMA Board of Directors for successfully reaching their initial goal of \$65,000 capital stock sales. We urge MACMA members to continue to improve the financial position of their marketing association by investing in additional shares of MACMA capital stock.

#### MFB STUDY COMMITTEE

We commend our MFB Study Committee for its thorough study and analysis of our Farm Bureau. This Committee was appointed by the State Board of Directors at the request of the 1973 delegate body.

The 15-member Committee has met for a total of eleven days since its appointment in April. They have:

1. Reviewed the current Farm Bureau and affiliate company programs.
2. Analyzed our MFB membership makeup and compared it with other State Farm Bureaus.
3. Conducted a County Farm Bureau survey to discover the attitudes and needs of County Farm Bureaus.
4. Reviewed the current and projected future financial needs of MFB.
5. Visited four Midwest State Farm Bureaus to compare programs and seek new ideas.

The Committee will complete its analysis and prepare recommendations during the coming months.

#### CONTROL OF CRIME IN RURAL AREAS

We are concerned about the increasing number of crimes including theft, vandalism and arson in our rural areas. We commend Michigan Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company for developing a reward program for Farm Bureau members.

This three-year program being launched in 1975 will provide a \$200 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person committing theft, arson or vandalism on the Farm Bureau member's property. The purchase of reward signs for approximately \$3.00 will be the only cost to members for this program.

#### HEALTH & SAFETY

Because of our concern for the welfare of our families and employees, we encourage Farm Bureau Women to conduct action projects regarding safety and health. We urge their continued cooperation with the Michigan Agricultural Services Association to inform and assist members to meet

the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. We believe the efforts of Farm Bureau Women in preparing farm families to meet emergency situations through first aid training, farm first aid kits on every farm, their goals of safety on the farm, in the home, and on the highways, as well as preventive health care, with special emphasis on cancer detection, deserve the full support of all members.

We commend Farm Bureau Women for the fact that many Farm Bureau Women leaders are now serving on various state, regional, and local commissions and committees regarding health and safety, and we urge continued participation in this regard.

**MASTER MEDICAL PROGRAM**

The high rate of increase in health care costs, plus the pressure and need for specialized health care services, is placing a heavy financial burden on many families. Our present contracts for persons under the age of 65 do not provide coverage for some costly services, such as office calls and prescription drugs.

The implementation of Master Medical coverage in conjunction with the present comprehensive Blue Cross-Blue Shield contract would in most cases eliminate any possibility of catastrophies and out-of-pocket payment for health care services by broadening and extending the basic Blue Cross-Blue Shield coverage.

**I. Extended Benefits - No Deductible**

A. Pays the cost for additional days of bedpatient care beyond the limits of the basic program - including all basic hospital benefits (except maternity).

B. Maximum allowance up to \$100,000 per benefit period.

**II. Additional Benefits - Deductible:**

\$100 for one person

\$200 for two or more persons

A. Pays 90% of costs for services not covered by the basic benefits after you have fulfilled the deductible.

1. Prescription drugs - Doctors home and office calls - Outpatient care for physical therapy and chronic conditions - Hospital admissions for diagnosis, physical therapy and podiatric care - Ground and ambulance service - Visiting nurse service - Therapeutic equipment - Functional and non-functional prosthetic equipment, etc.

B. Pays 75% of the costs for private duty nursing and psychiatric care out of the hospital after fulfillment of deductible.

For member subscribers who carry the Complementary coverage to Medicare, Master Medical would pay 80% of the cost of additional benefits after the deductible has been fulfilled. This corresponds with the Medicare provisions and only increases the subscribers billing by approximately \$.75 per quarter due to the ambulance, physicians homes and office services, physical therapy, etc. Services are being provided by Medicare.

The billings for the basic comprehensive Blue Cross-Blue Shield coverage plus Master Medical benefits would be less than the rate paid for Comprehensive coverage prior to August 1974.

Master Medical is community rated so the cost of utilization is shared by more than 750,000 subscribers. Tying expenses to us as an individual group could have an adverse effect on our overall rate.

We recommend the basic Comprehensive Blue Cross-Blue Shield contract plus Master Medical benefits be provided to ALL Farm Bureau member-subscribers who are not eligible for Medicare and the Blue Cross-Blue Shield Complementary to Medicare contract plus Master Medical benefits be provided to all Farm Bureau member-subscribers who are eligible for Medicare. The effective date of coverage to be February 20, 1975.

**FARM BUREAU-LEGISLATURE**

The November 4th election resulted in many new people being elected to the Michigan Legislature and the U.S. Congress. Most of these people have no background in agriculture.

We urge the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors and County Farm Bureau Boards to expand their legislative committee activities to establish contacts with the new legislators and assist them in every way possible to understand the importance of Michigan agriculture, its problems, and Farm Bureau policies passed by the elected delegates at this annual meeting.

**FARM LABOR MANAGEMENT**

Michigan farmers are concerned with the problems of hiring and retaining capable employees. Each year, the competition for skilled workers from outside of agriculture has become more severe.

The manager of today's farm business needs assistance in avoiding labor problems and preparing to meet and deal with problems if they arise.

We commend MASA for recruiting labor, representing farmers' interest at legislative labor hearings, a labor management newsletter service, and their continuing efforts to act as a watchdog on new regulations to ensure that they are as practical and reasonable as possible.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATES**

We believe that Michigan Farm Bureau's promotion of Christmas Gift Certificates for meat and poultry has proved to be a sound idea. This is one of the positive steps taken by the AFBF and many other state Farm Bureaus to assist in increasing the consumption of meat and poultry products. It is also a good method of providing consumer information. We believe that similar special promotional programs should be instituted whenever feasible.

**APPRECIATION TO FRANK MERRIMAN**

We commend Frank Merriman for the 14 years he has unselfishly served on the Board of Trustees of our pioneer land-grant institution, Michigan State University.

An active dairyman and former Sanilac County Farm Bureau President, Frank Merriman was often the only farmer on M.S.U.'s Board. As such he worked diligently to

insure that the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources maintained its crucial role within the University structure.

Michigan Farm Bureau deeply appreciates Frank Merriman's contribution to Michigan agriculture. He demonstrates the type of strong, dynamic leadership which is so necessary to modern agriculture.

**AFFILIATE COMPANY AGREEMENTS**

Agreements signed between County Farm Bureaus and Farm Bureau affiliate companies have been used to clearly define the responsibilities of parties involved. It becomes necessary to review these agreements periodically. We are pleased that MFB and the Farm Bureau Insurance Group are currently reviewing the County Farm Bureau Insurance Agreements. We look forward to a report on this subject from our Board of Directors at the 1975 Presidents' Conference.

It is of utmost importance that every County Farm Bureau Board review their affiliate company agreements annually. This will create a better understanding of the duties of both parties and lessen the chance of misunderstanding.

**FARM BUREAU REAFFIRMS**

**MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN FARM BUREAU**

To receive the full value of an organization, members must become involved in it. They must have input into its policies, develop action programs, and reap benefits from being organized.

In the past, Community Farm Bureaus provided these opportunities as well as social activities. Community groups provided a training ground for leadership development as well as a structure within the County Farm Bureau.

As communities change, agriculture changes, too. The needs of farmers are different from the past and will be different in the future.

We ask that new programs within Farm Bureau be explored to involve members in addition to, as well as in place of, the Community Group Program.

**ORIENTATION OF EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS**

The employed representatives of the Michigan Farm Bureau and all of its affiliated companies represent Farm Bureau in general when contacting members around the state and the public at large.

Uninformed or misinformed employees or agents may contribute to a poor or weak image of Farm Bureau, either in answers given to questions or statements made to other people when the information involves companies other than their own. A lack of information shows a weak interest on their part toward Farm Bureau when inquiries are made.

We recognize that efforts are being made to inform all employees about the programs of Farm Bureau and all affiliates through a regular liaison program. In addition, new employee orientation programs are being held regularly to create an understanding of the objectives and philosophies of our Farm Bureau family.

**FARM BUREAU MARKETING PROGRAMS**

Agricultural marketing is of major concern to farmers. We recognize the need to improve our present marketing methods if we are to receive a more equitable income. Farm Bureau - county, state and national - must assist and support the development and early operational phase of new marketing programs so that they can be financially sound. These marketing programs should be given our highest priority. We should continue to expand marketing activities in commodity areas when requested by members and where programs are economically feasible.

Members producing commodities for which Farm Bureau affiliates have marketing programs should become informed of these producer-owned-and-operated marketing services and participate in these programs. Members must be willing to commit the commodities they produce through contracts with their marketing organizations so that our affiliate marketing organizations can work to sell members' products through full supply contracts.

**SERVICE TO FARMERS**

In this changing agriculture, our affiliate service companies are constantly challenged to provide new and improved service to farmers. Our companies have long demonstrated an ability to provide innovative approaches to the service needs of farmers.

We urge Farmers Petroleum and Farm Bureau Services to provide, where possible, on-the-farm tire service, bulk feed delivery, and terminal marketing of grain direct from the farm. We recommend that Farmers Petroleum and Farm Bureau Services:

-Maintain outlet business hours in line with local business practices. Special consideration should be given to planting and harvest needs of the area.

-Make safety equipment available to farmers, such as fire extinguishers, first aid kits, sound protective ear muffs and ear plugs, steel-toed shoes, hard hats, gas masks, oxygen breathing equipment, etc.

**ESTATE PLANNING**

It is estimated that more than 60 percent of the population has not even taken the basic step of preparing a will for the transfer of their property at death. State and federal laws are such that a large percentage of the estate can be devoured by taxes without proper planning. We recommend that Michigan Farm Bureau continue its program of information to the members on estate planning problems and point out the many techniques of transferring property to heirs at the least possible tax obligation. It is becoming increasingly difficult to transfer farms from one generation to another.

**STATUS OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

The policies adopted at the four previous annual meetings are hereby reaffirmed except insofar as they have been modified or supplemented by later policies, including those adopted at this annual meeting. All other policies shall be deemed to have lapsed except insofar as the Board of Directors may specifically find that such a prior policy provides the only basis for action on a current problem.

# At MFB Annual Meeting



Governor Milliken speaks.



Annica Ledebuhr, two-months-old, ponders a resolution.



Dr. John Hannah, deputy secretary general, United Nations World Food Conference talks to newsmen.



From the delegate floor Alyce Heft, Ottawa County, speaks out.

Photos by Marcia Ditchie

# Michigan Marketing Outlook

## LIVESTOCK

Butcher hogs sold mainly from \$37 to \$40 during November. Butcher cattle prices remained in the mid to high 30's with very few cattle bringing \$40/cwt.

Choice feeder steers 500 to 700 pounds were mainly \$27 to \$30. Feeder pigs were in the low 20's. We expect butcher hog prices to be in the low to mid 40's during January. Butcher cattle prices will remain at the \$38 to \$40 level.

We look for feeder cattle to remain steady after the first of the year and feeder pig prices to move into the high 20's.

Bill Byrum, Marketing Specialist  
Market Development Division

## DAIRY

Dairy farmers who attended the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, held in Grand Rapids, had the opportunity to hear four individuals express their feelings on the outlook for dairy farmers in Michigan. The panel of four individuals was moderated by Bill Anderson, AFBF, and included C. T. McCleery, Market Administrator Order #40; Lowell Allen, Michigan Milk Producers; DuWayne Ziegler, ADA of Michigan; and Glynn McBride, Ag. Econ. - Michigan State University.

A number of negative factors were suggested which are affecting Michigan dairymen. Number one on the list is inflation. Inflation directly affects the producer and the consumer; thus, the dairyman is caught in the middle. Cost of inputs dairymen must buy are up considerably. Some of the needed inputs are still short, such as fertilizer. The consumer is also affected by inflation and has less money to spend; thus, consumers are apparently cutting back on some items such as milk. It does not appear that at this point in time the economy has bottomed out. Thus, the future is still uncertain. Dairy producers who must buy a significant portion of feed are in a less desirable position than those who have raised their own feed.

Other factors adversely affecting the dairyman include quality and quantity of feed available; the generally depressed livestock markets, including cull cow and calf market; and the effect that imports have had on the domestic supply of dairy products.

The solutions to the above outlined problems are basically long term in nature. Currently, many dairy producers are looking very closely at their herd production and are culling cows that are not efficient. This is one management practice that will help individual producers through the current situation. A second factor, which would have a favorable effect on the total market, is a more aggressive promotional effort. This is something that each dairyman can participate in. Most dairymen contribute to the American Dairy Association, but all dairymen can do their part to promote dairy products. This promotional effort can take place with relatively little cost and very easily be accomplished by simply promoting the idea of using dairy products whenever possible at meetings—church, school, community, or business meetings. Dairy products, such as cheese, are naturals for many events or for evening snacks. This might appear to be an insignificant effort; but if everyone would contribute, it could have some impact on the consumption patterns and, thus, the milk market.

No doubt the new year will bring with it new promises and new problems for the dairyman. Supply

problems will be with us; thus, the good manager will secure a supply of seed, fertilizer, etc. early to insure that he has the supplies when he needs them. At the present time, many are optimistic that the new year will bring with it a stabilized and stronger economy. This, too, will be a tremendous help to the dairyman.

Ron Nelson, Marketing Specialist  
Market Development Division

## HOLIDAY MEAT PROMOTION

At the time of this writing, the Holiday Meat Promotion has had several successes, and it has had some failures. Certainly there have been many areas that could have been improved. Nothing ventured is nothing gained. At this time, the number of Christmas Gift Certificates is not known, but we expect that many will be sold just prior to Christmas. The public relations aspect of this promotion has been very successful. Farm Bureau has received very favorable publicity from the promotional effort. An example of one of the favorable benefits involves a free-lance writer who contacted Farm Bureau members while shopping in the Pennsylvania Street Meijer's Store. He later came to Farm Bureau Center to obtain background information for a story.

While contacting the shopper in the store, members were met with various reactions. This is only natural. It is important to visit with consumers rather than to talk amongst ourselves about our problems. Another factor revealed during this campaign, was that many stores had meat promotional brochures, but they were either lost, mislaid or not being used. A result of the Farm Bureau meat promotion has been to get promotional material in the hands of consumers.

Dave Wolfe, Marketing Specialist  
Market Development Division

## SOYBEANS

Soybeans and their products are on a knife edge as to the direction of price. Two major conflicting forces are at work and as yet neither one has become dominant. Obviously, one of them is the short supply. The other is the general economic condition of the whole world, as well as the United States.

Most everyone seems to agree that our economic dilemma can be traced to the Arabians and their oil embargo, but this column is about soybeans. Suffice it to say, if the world's economy goes to pot, there obviously won't be any \$10 per bushel soybeans in your future. Somehow though I don't believe that things will be all that bad.

Trying to analyze the statistics, the supply situation hasn't really changed that much since the last review. There are those who strongly believe that the final crop summary to be released January 16 will show a further reduction in production of both corn and soybeans. A larger production figure of either one would be a surprise and would cause a sell off. Usage of both beans and meal have been below guestimates so far. However, consumption has to be lower to ration the supply. Whether usage is being contracted enough will be a lot more apparent when we see the results of the January 24 Stocks in all Positions Report. We will have fairly accurate figures then that will indicate the rate of disappearance.

During that same period, the first intentions to plant report will be released. No need to explain to you about the influence that report will have on the market.

The demand side of the equation continues at a brisk pace, and is running headlong into a tightly held farmer-owned supply, who apparently are not ready to market their ownership.

Most observances have been surprised and disappointed in the market performance these past 60 days. It might be too soon to throw in the towel.

Don Kunz  
Michigan Elevator Exchange

## APPLE MARKETING

At the Fruit and Vegetable Session of the Commodity Programs, Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in December, Tom Butler, Manager of the Michigan Processing Apple Growers gave this address:

1974 was my first full year as manager of the Michigan Processing Apple Growers.

I have worked closely with the entire fruit industry in Michigan for the past 6 years before joining the MACMA staff, but I never fully appreciated the problems of apple growers from a marketing point of view as I do as I stand here today. In this business you must take up sides and in doing so cannot be everyone's friend.

The Michigan Processing Apple Growers is the largest of the MACMA Divisions. At the present time we have 550 members who grow approximately 60% of the processing apple production in Michigan.

The Michigan Processing Apple Growers Marketing Committee is elected by secret ballot and is comprised of 15 regular committeemen and 15 alternates from all of the apple growing areas of Michigan. A committeeman's term of office is 2 years, and half the committee is elected every year.

I would like to review for you the pricing and sales activities of the Michigan Processing Apple Growers during the past year.

During the early summer, the MACMA staff prepares a book of apple market statistics to help govern the marketing committee in making pricing decisions during late August.

The committee uses various tools to help determine apple price recommendations. Some of these tools are:

1. The use of margins analysis
2. The use of computer formula from M.S.U. Ag. Econ. Dept.
3. The use of cash of production
4. The use of USDA Crop statistics.

On August 19th of this year many of the marketing committee attended the Annual IAI pricing clinic. This year processors seemed to dominate that meeting and much pessimistic information about the processing apple industry was disseminated. Example:

1. The crop is too large nationally with more than ample supplies of processing apples.
2. The market for processing apples would be limited this year in most areas. Juice-Sauce-Slices

One processor from Winchester, Virginia announced that it was already buying apples from North Carolina growers at a price of \$5.50 per cwt. for hard sauce and \$2.50 for Juice Apples.

The IAI pricing clinic set the stage for some tough apple price bargaining in the near future.

On August 20, 1974, the day following the IAI meeting, the Michigan Processing Apple Growers held their annual pricing meeting. The committee met for several hours taking all factors into consideration and recommended a price of \$8.50 per hundred for hard sauce apples.

On August 21, 1974, our AAMA delegates met with the AAMA delegates from other states. At that meeting the AAMA committee recommended a price of 8.25 c.w.t. for sauce apples.

## Supply



By Greg Sheffield, Marketing Manager FBS

**Fertilizer.** Farm Bureau Services with its CF Industries cooperative is producing as much fertilizer as possible. Nevertheless, the huge demand for farm products makes prospects for nitrogen, phosphate and potash less than encouraging during the rush period to come this spring of 1975. There has been a kind of "black market" in fertilizer tied to world prices rather than to domestic prices. These so-called "black market" fertilizers are often of unknown origin and very costly. CF Industries cooperatives has been struggling to hold manufactured prices down and has not sold to the world market to get better prices.

**Pesticides.** Insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are being received on an allocation basis from manufacturers. These are going directly to Farm Bureau dealers as soon as possible. Orders should be entered as soon as possible because reductions in prices are not expected. Shipments will continue through the winter and spring months and Farm Bureau patrons should have enough supplies to cover their needs.

**Seeds.** Adequate supplies of most field seeds are forecasted except for seed corn. Wet weather and early frost reduced the germination rates of seed corn to less than that of a year ago. It's suggested that farmers place their orders for seed corn as early as possible to get the quality of seeds available to Farm Bureau patrons.

**Feeds.** With feed ingredients available in sufficient quantities for near-term needs prices eased during November and through early December. Cyclical increases are expected during these winter months due to farmer holding of feed grains. Towards spring prices would normally be in a down trend again. No feed shortages are predicted. LPS (Liquid Protein Supplement) is being anxiously sought as a money saver for beef and dairy cattle.

**Hardware.** The economics across the country are changing rapidly and part of this picture shows a definite loosening in the tightness of steel products. However, there has been no decrease in prices as of this writing probably due to high priced inventories from basic suppliers. Mowers and tillers are readily available and should be purchased while there's a

The Michigan Processing Apple Growers Committee met again to determine whether or not they agreed with the AAMA price recommendation. The committee did agree on the 8.25 price but in addition recommended prices of 7.25 for McIntosh, 9.25 for Spys, and 3.75 for Juice.

Negotiations with processors began that evening with one of the largest processors in the state. They did not agree to our recommendations, nor would they offer to buy apples at any price.

All processors were contacted with the same results. As mid-September arrived, we did not have a price offer from any processor, except that Vintage Foods in Bailey had announced a \$3.50 per hundred price for Juice Apples.

The committee met to decide a course of action. It was decided to approach the problem with a task force of committeemen and MACMA staff personnel. During these task force activities, one large juice processor announced a price of \$2.75 per hundred. Deliveries of apples began at this price.

Picketing started early the next morning. Signs read that "Farmers Can't Survive on \$2.75."

A meeting was held at the Farm Bureau Building in Paw Paw that night to determine courses of action against sauce processors, who were receiving apples with no price being offered or agreed upon. There were indications that a processor would announce prices of \$6.50, \$5.50, and \$4.50 with a \$2.50 Juice price. Pickets were organized in order to discourage deliveries of apples without prices.

These activities continued for a period of two weeks in Southwestern Michigan.

Similar meetings produced similar decisions in the Grand Rapids area. Decisions were made (Continued on page 17)

## Report

good selection. The increased interest in gardening can cause a rush to tillers.

All building supplies are adequate and many farmers are planning to take advantage by spring.

**Petroleum and TBA.** Presently, December writing, liquid fuel supplies are good. There have been no changes in availability and new regulations may come at any moment. Farm Bureau's hard fight for farmer priority should continue to be rewarding. Top priority for farmers is predicted to hold.

**T.B.A. Tires, batteries, and accessories for passenger cars** are all in adequate supply and at good prices at Farmers Petroleum outlets. Farm and truck tires are in short supply but are being made available to Farm Bureau patrons at Farmers Petroleum outlets. They are back ordered. Truck tires are coming in somewhat better than tractor tires. Farmers in need of tires are advised to order tires well before they are needed. Antifreeze crises were avoided by Farm Bureau through careful forward buying and some supplies are still left going into January.

# Homefront

The Lyman group of Tuscola County aren't trying to start a contest, they wonder if they haven't some sort of a record - . Out of 17 members, they had 10 hospitalized, 6 had surgery, and two deaths in less than a years time.

The number of Farm Bureau members active in Community Groups continue to grow. Pat and Fern Bellows have joined the McBride Group in Montcalm County, Mr. & Mrs. Lorne Warszinsky joined the Jolly Burgess in Sanilac County, and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wilson of Menominee County joined the Taproots.

This year, Isabella County joined the ranks of those counties offering an incentive to those groups whose members have all renewed their Farm Bureau membership by a given date.

The Grovers met for a potluck dinner with the Green Thumbs. Gene Budd, manager of the Saginaw County Fair met with the two groups and presented some interesting facts about the fair.

Clarence and Leola King will be leaving the Western Bureau Boosters in Branch County. Clarence has accepted the position as manager of the elevator at Charlevoix. Wonder what community group will be the first to invite them to join in their new location.

The Newcomers of Kalamazoo County had a booth on beef at Agriculture Day at the Maplehill Mall. Pamphlets and supplies were furnished by the Michigan Beef Industry Commission. The group feels the time spent was very worthwhile as a lot of interest was shown in their display.

## Marketing Outlook

(Continued from page 16)

to picket one juice processor and one sauce processor.

These efforts coincided with and were extensions of activities in Southwestern Michigan.

After two weeks of picketing activities and attempted negotiations with all processors, a Southwestern Michigan processor offered prices of \$7.00 per hundred for hard sauce and \$6.00 for McIntosh with a \$3.00 Juice Price. While these prices were not at our recommended levels, it was decided that they were significantly better than original processor offers and should be accepted.

Several other processors followed suit so that a \$7.00-\$7.25 price for hard sauce became established along with a \$6.00 price for Mac's. Spy's were bought for \$8.00-\$8.50 by two Michigan processors. The juice price became firmly established at \$3.00.

It is my firm belief that the activities of the Michigan Processing Apple Growers raised the price of apples in Michigan by at least \$1.50 for peelers and \$.25 to \$.50 for Juice Apples.

The Michigan Processing Apple Growers operate a sales desk to serve members during the apples sales season.

A large portion of our membership uses the sales desk to actually make the sales of their apples or to obtain information which will help them get top price for their apples. During the heat of the sales season, newsletters are sent to the entire membership in order to keep them informed as to the best prices and terms of sale available.

The sales desk is still active at this time; however, the apple market is not as active as we would like to see it. The sauce processors have about completed their buying for the year. The slice processors are beginning to run, but their price offers are too low. The Juice Market has deteriorated from \$3.00 to \$2.50 and is holding firm.

Hopefully, as we enter next year's apple marketing season, the Michigan Processing Apple Growers will be accredited under P.A. 344.

If accredited, we will arrive at our suggested prices much as we have done in the past. We will also arrive at other terms of trade, such as grading methods, box rental, storage, etc.

Thirty days prior to the beginning of the marketing period, processors interested in purchasing apples for the coming season must notify the accredited association that they wish to do so.

Negotiations then will begin between the accredited association and the processors.

If agreement on price and all other terms of trade is not reached with each processor by the first day of the marketing period, the association and the processors involved must consent to settlement of all issues in question by arbitration.

Delivery of apples can then begin with the knowledge that the arbitration committee will either accept the association's last offer or the processors' last offer.

The arbitration committee will consist of one committeeman selected by the association, one committeeman selected by the handler, and one committeeman selected by both parties. This third committeeman shall be chairman of the committee.

Keep in mind that during the entire arbitration period, deliveries of apples will be taking place.

During the past year I witnessed two associations, who have operated under P.A. 344. These are the Michigan Red Tart Cherry Growers and the Michigan Asparagus Growers.

Both of these associations arrived at price and other terms of trade in a smooth manner.

Under Accreditation with P.A. 344, the Michigan Processing Apple Growers will operate in a similar way. Both growers and processors will benefit when the Michigan Processing Apple Growers are accredited.

Our application for accreditation is now being prepared in Lansing and we hope to submit it to the Bargaining Board Offices before the first of the year.

## From Osceola County

# Top Young Farmer Named

An Osceola County dairyman has been named Michigan Farm Bureau's "distinguished young farmer" for 1974.

Pete J. Bontekoe, 26, of Marion, received the award December 11 at MFB's annual meeting held in Grand Rapids.

Bontekoe, an agri-business graduate of Michigan State University, operates a 1,200 acre dairy farm in partnership with his father, Pete F. Bontekoe. Sharing in Bontekoe's farming business is his wife, Pamela, also an M.S.U. graduate.

On January 5, the Bontekoes will travel to New Orleans to participate in national distinguished young farmer competition at the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual meeting.

Recognized as second place winner in the young farmer competition was Dallas Beland, 27, a dairy and cash crop farmer from Lake Odessa, Ionia County.

Tying for third place honors were Robert C. Heer, 27, of Hart,

Oceana County and L.C. Scramlin, 24, of Holly, Oakland County.

The distinguished young farmer

awards were presented at the young farmers banquet held as part of annual meeting.



MFB's "distinguished young farmer" for 1974 Pete J. Bontekoe, Osceola County, [center] accepts award with wife Pamela. Steve Carlson (left) presented the award.

# LAST CALL

## Plan for Hawaii and Spain

### Hawaii Tour



Slip away from the winter snow, ice and cold winds to a tropical paradise where the warm sun, colorful flowers, and summer breezes greet all visitors. Tour dates are February 18 through 26, 1975.

Beginning with the traditional lei greeting, Michigan Farm Bureau members will thrill to the interesting and educational tours, go on shopping sprees, dine on exotic meals, and fill their minds and hearts with memories to last for many years.

#### DAILY ITINERARY

Tuesday Feb. 18 - Morning departure from Grand Rapids, on charter DC 8 jet. 3:25 p.m. arrive in Honolulu. The group will be met and given the traditional lei greeting before transferring to the Outrigger West Hotel. No plans for balance of day.

Wednesday Feb. 19 - Tour of the city of Honolulu, Mt. Tantalus, Punch Bowl Cemetery, etc. Afternoon at leisure.

Thursday Feb. 20 - All day circle island tour of Oahu.

Friday Feb. 21 - Morning for shopping or etc. Afternoon cruise to Pearl Harbor.

Saturday Feb. 22 - Transfer to the Honolulu airport for short flight to the island of Maui. Staying at the Royal Lahaina Hotel. In the afternoon there will be a trip up the slopes of Mt. Haleakala, one of the largest extinct volcanoes in the islands.

Sunday Feb. 23 - No plans this morning so those interested can take local transportation into the old town of Lahaina altar church and etc. Afternoon flight to the big island and the second largest city in the islands. Hilo. Overnight at Waikona Village.

Monday Feb. 24 - Leave by special bus for a trip through the Volcano National Park. Continuing on the Kona area. Arriving in the late afternoon. Overnight at the Kona Inn.

Tuesday Feb. 25 - Leave in mid-morning by special bus for the Parker Ranch where a stop will be made at the museum. Continuing on to Hilo and the airport for a 6:30 p.m. United Airlines Charter jet departure.

Wednesday Feb. 26 - 10:00 a.m. Arrive in Grand Rapids.

#### COST OF TOUR

Cost of tour will be \$496.00 per person from Grand Rapids, based on double occupancy. Cost is based on a prorata share of aircraft cost of \$356.78 per person. A fuel supplement, not to exceed, and hopefully, lower than \$31.97 per seat, may be charged. Should fewer than 149 people join the group, this aircraft cost must be prorated so that each tour member pays an equal share. This cost does include U.S. departure tax. Also included are tips, transfers from airport to your hotel and return, sightseeing as indicated in itinerary, and baggage handling.

#### WHO IS QUALIFIED TO GO

This charter tour is available only to Michigan Farm Bureau members who have been a member for at least 6 months prior to departure of the trip and their immediate families - namely spouse, children and/or parents living under the same roof. Friends or other relatives are not eligible to participate unless they meet the membership requirements.



#### RESERVATION REQUEST

Please enter my reservation for the 1975 Farm Bureau Hawaiian Tour. Enclosed is my check made out to Hoosier Travel Service, Inc., in the amount of \$75.00 deposit for each reservation. I understand I will be billed for the balance of the tour cost approximately six-weeks prior to departure.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 County of Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Mail reservation request, with your deposit check to: Kenneth Wiley, Manager, Member Relations, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

### See Sunny Spain

Enjoy the sights and sounds of Spain's La Costa del Sol (coast of sunshine) in March, 1975.

La Costa del Sol is the only part of Spain's coastline that faces south onto the Mediterranean, obtaining the highest benefit from the sun. The mountains to the north form protection from northern winds while southern winds bring warmth from across the Sahara desert.

Densets of beaches are washed by the eternally blue Mediterranean water and beautiful valleys, backed by rugged mountains, form a natural setting for fishing villages and beautiful flowers, plants and gardens.

Visitors will stay at Malaga, along the seacoast. Lots of restaurants, shops and special points of interest are within walking distance of the hotel.

#### SCHEDULED TRIP ACTIVITIES

Sunday, March 2 - Late afternoon departure on TWA charter jet flying non-stop from Detroit to Malaga, Spain.

Monday, March 3 - Arrive Malaga, transfer to hotel. March 4-9 - Included in tour: based on two people sharing twin bedded room for seven nights; breakfast and dinner daily, transfers and tips for baggage handling, City sightseeing tour of Malaga. Full day of agricultural sightseeing tour.

Monday, March 10 - Depart Malaga approximately noon, arriving Detroit late afternoon.

One-day optional trips will be available at additional costs.

#### COST OF SPAIN TOUR

Cost of the tour package will be \$392.62 per person from Detroit. This is based on two people sharing twin bedded room for seven nights. Also included are breakfast and dinner daily. Transfers for baggage handling, a city sightseeing tour of Malaga, and an agricultural tour. Cost is based on prorata share of aircraft cost of \$286.02 per person from Indianapolis and \$206.81 per person from Detroit. Should less than 175 people join the group, this aircraft cost must be prorated so that each tour member pays an equal share. This cost does include U.S. departure tax and Spanish tax.

#### WHO IS QUALIFIED TO GO

This charter tour is available only to Michigan and Indiana Farm Bureau members who have been a member for at least 6 months prior to departure of the trip and their immediate families - namely spouse, children and/or parents living under the same roof. Friends or other relatives are not eligible to participate unless they meet the membership requirements.



#### RESERVATION REQUEST

Please enter my reservation for the 1975 Farm Bureau Spain tour. Enclosed is my check made out to Hoosier Travel Service, Inc., in the amount of \$100.00 deposit for each reservation. I understand I will be billed for the balance of the tour cost approximately six-weeks before departure.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 County of Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Mail reservation request, with your deposit check to: Hoosier Travel Service, Inc., 130 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.



# Land Use Planning

The Michigan Territory was created in 1805 from the Northwest Territory. Land was considered wealth to be used to develop the new territory. The seemingly unending abundance of land was used to: (1) serve as an incentive to settle the country and provide public facilities such as transportation and education; and (2) produce under private ownership a continuous profit in the form of goods and services.

Exploitation was encouraged under the assumption that all land would be used for agriculture. As farmers were becoming established in the southern part of the Territory the lumberman was pushing northward. There was little concern for the sale of cutover lands because the popular belief lingered among the uninitiated that all land could be used for agriculture.

## EARLY PLANNING AND ZONING

With the experience of exploitation in the woods and growing conflicts in towns, villages, and cities, Michigan began to question the wisdom of a policy based upon unrestrained development. Early land use zoning controls exercised by the urban areas in our state were based on the Home Rule Act of 1909. The Detroit city charter provided for a planning commission to divide the city into zones to carry out a definite plan for city betterment.

This authority was challenged and in 1920 the ordinances were held to be invalid. The state legislature reacted to that decision by passing the City and Village Zoning Act 207 of 1921. In 1929, townships were given legislative authority to zone, and in 1935 counties were granted the same authority. The Legislature in 1931 adopted Act 285 providing for the organization and operation of planning commissions on the town, village, and city level. The law provided for the first time specific authority enabling municipalities to conduct planning activities along with zoning functions.

Pioneer zoning efforts appear to have been aimed primarily at maintaining the integrity of the community and had little to do with stimulating sound land policy in general. There is little evidence of concern for the ability of the land to support the various types of activities. The ordinances did nothing to deter the flow of tax delinquent lands which seems to have been the most pressing land issue.

## DEVELOPING LAND CONCERNS

While many communities were initiating zoning, tax sales on delinquent lands continued to be a problem. They were suspended from 1933 to 1938 because of the depression. The resumption of tax sales in 1938 saw more land added to state ownership.

Also, by the time the state was purchasing land for wildlife restoration purposes thus providing another block in the growing foundation of state land policy.

That policy was evolving into one that: (1) encouraged private ownership; (2) fostered private development tempered by local determination; and (3) withheld some lands not suited for economic development for the long-range benefit of the people.

In 1936 a federal land use planning program was initiated. It provided for the establishment of planning committees in every county. The purpose of the committees was to allocate areas of land according to their capability to support the various uses of concern at that time, chiefly agriculture, forestry and wildlife.

Dust storms in the West and excessive water erosion nearly everywhere seemed to reinforce efforts aimed at establishing a new national land use ethic. As one result, the Michigan Legislature enacted the Soil Conservation Districts law in 1937.

Before World War II, land development was mostly done by individuals or small business specializing in certain types of structures such as single family home, apartments, or commercial buildings on a lot-by-lot basis.

After World War II, demand for new housing resulted in large scale developments. New superhighways, better transportation systems, higher family incomes, cheaper land, and popular desire to have an "acre in the suburbs" fostered rapid urban sprawl.

The State Planning Commission created in the '30's was abolished in 1947 by Public Act 302. That Act established the State Department of Economic Development. While state planning and coordinators were transferred to the Michigan Department of Commerce in theory, several functional planning areas remained elsewhere in state government. In 1971 the Governor transferred these planning functions to the Executive office and established a State Planning Division.

In early 1973, by Executive Order, Governor Milliken consolidated and transferred land use and environmental functions to the Department of Natural Resources. The DNR then established an Office of Land Use to begin to identify and analyze Michigan's many and complex land use problems.

## LAND-A RESOURCE

The most complex of the three basic natural resources elements—land, water, and air—is land. Uses of land embraces all facets of social and economic behavior, and all are intertwined with fundamental environmental considerations.

We must seek new levels of awareness and concern for the values of land; make the physical capability of land a primary determinant of how it is used; account for all the imports of land use on air, water, energy, and other resources; and assure that proposed developments respect the desired uses of the larger areas of which they become a part.

We must realize that land is a limited resource which must be utilized wisely to accommodate desired growth while assuring a quality living environment for present and future generations.

Human interdependency has created a contradiction in our value system as it relates to land management. There will always be debate on exactly what is in the "public interest" in regards to land use. Land goals and values are often conflicting, depending in large part on individual perspectives and the time frame involved. Maintenance of wilderness surroundings and viable agricultural lands are accepted goals, but so are convenient transportation facilities, housing developments, and employment opportunities.

Each parcel of land has certain inherent qualities which determine its physical and environmental suitability for various land uses. Different uses place different demands on land, some of which are more critical than others. Uses with significant resource requirements should be matched systematically with those lands exhibiting the greatest capacity to fulfill those requirements.

We have thousands of acres of land in Michigan which, if looked at only from the land capability point of view, could equally well be used for intensive farming, forestry, housing, commercial or industrial uses. But we must look beyond land characteristics because review of these aspects alone will not assure the desired goal is achieved.

Land use decisions made without regard for immediate and long-term consequences are apt to be very costly to the community, the state, and future generations.

## LAND FOR FOOD AND FIBER

It is generally recognized that with our population and its growing affluence, certain categories of lands need to provide a balanced environment for our society are being depleted. As a result of the emphasis placed on progress and technology, some non-renewable land and other resources are being used at a very rapid rate. Competition

for land is emerging as one of the major issues which will confront Michigan in the future.

Our standard of living is dependent on an adequate supply of food, fiber and mineral resources at a price that makes them available to all citizens. If citizens and their leadership are disposed to evaluating local conditions in the light of long-range needs, the available food, fiber and mineral resources can provide for a continued high standard of living with only minor shifts in priority. On the other hand, if trends in land use already well established are allowed to continue, future generations will be accommodated at serious sacrifice.

Nobody knows how much land, or where, the future population of Michigan or the nation will need to grow necessary food and fiber. If current trends continue Michigan could be down to 2.5 million acres of agricultural cropland by the year 2000.

Were we to arrive at that acreage, our ratio of four humans per acre of agriculturally productive land would be substantially higher than the ratio of humans to crop acres in Taiwan today. Michigan would have to rely on massively increased imports if our diet were to maintain present characteristics. It would seem irresponsible to ignore these dangerous implications.

## WHERE DO WE GO?

While there are no quick, simple, and painless solutions to effective land use planning our advance into the 21st century must be predicated upon achieving sound economic growth and improving the quality of our environment for the present and future citizens of our states.

The voting delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting last month in Grand Rapids, like most others who make their living from the soil, gave considerable thought and deliberation before adopting a policy on Land Use. The policy adopted is contained in the center section of this paper and it is suggested members read it as well as the article in last month's Michigan Farm News on the newly enacted Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act.

## Topic Summary

From the Report Sheets received on the November Discussion Topic on Foreign Trade it is apparent that most community groups members have strong convictions that foreign trade is vital to Michigan's agriculture.

On the question as to whether this country's policy should be for protected or modified free trade 81% of the groups reporting supported free trade. Eleven percent were undecided or failed to comment on the question and only 8% were in favor of protected trade.

Groups were asked to list some points they felt should be included on Farm Bureau policy on foreign trade. Following is the policy on international trade adopted by the voting delegates last month at Michigan Farm Bureau's annual meeting. Check to determine how many of the points your group recommended are contained in this policy:

"World trade is vital to the prosperity of American agriculture. The production of one harvested acre in four is exported. Agricultural exports reached a record \$21.3 billion in the fiscal year 1974 and contributed a net plus of \$11.8 billion to the foreign trade account.

"Agricultural exports have been a major factor in reducing our nation's overall balance-of-payments deficit. Foreign exchange gained from agricultural export sales allows the United States to purchase needed products which are in short supply here, such as petroleum products.

"Expansion of existing and development of new export markets should be pursued to the fullest extent possible. We oppose export controls on agricultural products. Export controls are not an effective mechanism for adjusting supply to demand and result in the loss of hard-won markets due to shattered faith on the part of foreign buyers.

"The Tariff Act of 1930 provides authority for the Treasury Department to levy countervailing duties in amounts equal to export subsidies on imported products. We deplore the failure of the Treasury Department to place countervailing duties on subsidized agricultural imports. We urge President Ford to direct the Treasury Department to enforce countervailing duty levies on any subsidized agricultural imports.

"Legislated import quotas are unacceptable solutions to import problems and invite retaliation by foreign customers. Agriculture import problems can be handled best through determinations of injury and remedies by the Tariff Commission rather than through special legislation.

"Imported agricultural commodities must meet sanitary and quality standards applied to domestic products. Such regulations should be rigidly enforced. Regulations requiring proper labeling of imported products should also be enforced.

"We oppose the importation of dairy products into the United States from countries infected with rinderpest and foot and mouth diseases.

"We support equal trade opportunities through the use of the "most favored nation" principle to provide U.S. farmers with equal access to world markets.

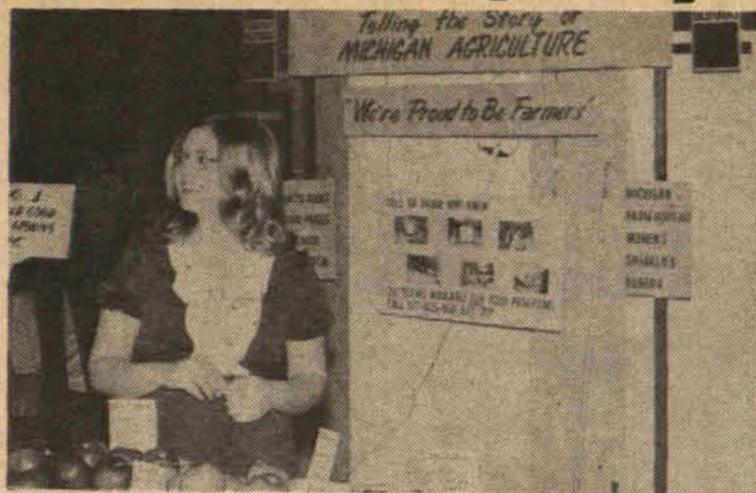
"We support the sale of farm products in all world markets."

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by **KEN WILES**

Manager Member Relations

# Mall Display



Tuscola County Farm Bureau's Sue Sergent was one of scores of Farm Bureau members who told the story of agriculture to city cousins in December when Huron, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties pooled forces for a major display at Saginaw's Fashion Square Mall. Sponsored by Farm Bureau Women of the four counties, the display attracted thousands of Christmas shoppers during its four day duration.

# Membership Kick-offs Start

All across the state, during December and January, County Farm Bureau's are holding membership campaign kick-off meetings.

The kick-off meetings are the focal point of the membership campaign. It provides an opportunity for those people who are working on membership to get together, review promotional materials, and have questions about various programs answered. Members will learn how close the county is to making goal and who have not renewed their membership. In most cases,

representatives of each of the affiliate companies will be present to answer questions.

Kick-off meetings are only the beginning of "Project 75 - Building Spirit for '76". After the meetings the real project begins and only with the efforts of many will we be able to make this the eighth consecutive year of growth for Michigan Farm Bureau.

If you would like to attend your county's kick-off meeting or know of a prospective member, please contact your County Farm Bureau Secretary.

### 1974-1975 MEMBERSHIP COMPARISON SHEET

	1975	1974
QUOTA: 61097		60709
GOAL: 61098		60710
Date	12-18	12-19
New	974	876
Renewals	37096	36368
Life Mbrs.	90	94
TOTAL MEMBERS	38160	37338
% Maint.	60.72	59.91
% Quota	62.46	61.50
% Goal	62.46	61.50
NEEDED FOR GOAL:	22938	23372

# Animal Waste Seminars Scheduled

Michigan State University is sponsoring a series of 13 regional animal waste management seminars to be held throughout the state.

The series will start Jan. 14 and conclude Feb. 13, and the sites include: Powers, Gaylord, Mt. Pleasant, Frankenmuth, Tustin, Grand Rapids, Bad Axe, Sandusky, Kalamazoo, Albion, Coldwater, East Lansing and Berrien Springs. Livestock producers should check with their local county extension agent for time and meeting date in their area.

"All Michigan animal producers are going to face strict governmental guidelines for waste handling. It is our intention to provide them comprehensive material to help meet these requirements," said Dr. Larry Prewitt, MSU dairy science specialist.

"We are putting together a team and comprehensive program content which will thoroughly cover engineering and management of farm waste handling.

"We need to provide the individual farmer information with which he can adequately plan a waste handling system for his farm - the most efficient for the least cost - which will meet his and governmental needs," Prewitt says.

"The information we will carry to the individual farmer will help him decide what methods he will utilize. Frankly, I think the sessions are going to be the best of this type ever put on in Michigan," says Prewitt.

"We are going to put the producer in contact with the people they will work with when building a waste handling system. State as well as local agency personnel will be at these meetings. It is our intention to provide needed answers and name the resources farmers can contact for help," he concludes.

Program leaders will be from MSU's dairy science department, agriculture economics, agricultural engineering, crops and soil sciences, U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

# OFFICE CALLS

Did you ever stop to total up your investment in Farm Bureau in terms of real dollars it has saved your family?

In tax relief alone, Michigan farmers have collected on Michigan and Federal gas tax refunds, sales tax exemptions on farm equipment and property tax relief.

And in areas of legislation favorable to farmers, Farm Bureau is working on issues such as land use, environment, taxation, labor and transportation.

For everyday farm needs, Farm Bureau has benefited its members with accidental death and dismemberment insurance, member life insurance, auto insurance, workmen's compensation insurance, marketing services and Blue Cross and Blue Shield Group benefits.

Your Blue Cross and Blue Shield benefits give you and your family the security of knowing that any unforeseen illness will be covered at little or no cost to you. And the favorable group subscription rate is available to you only as a Farm Bureau member.

Now, don't you think that all these benefits are worth renewing your membership in Farm Bureau? The deadline for paying your dues is January 21.

Don't give up all your benefits, renew your membership today.

# More Citrus On The Way

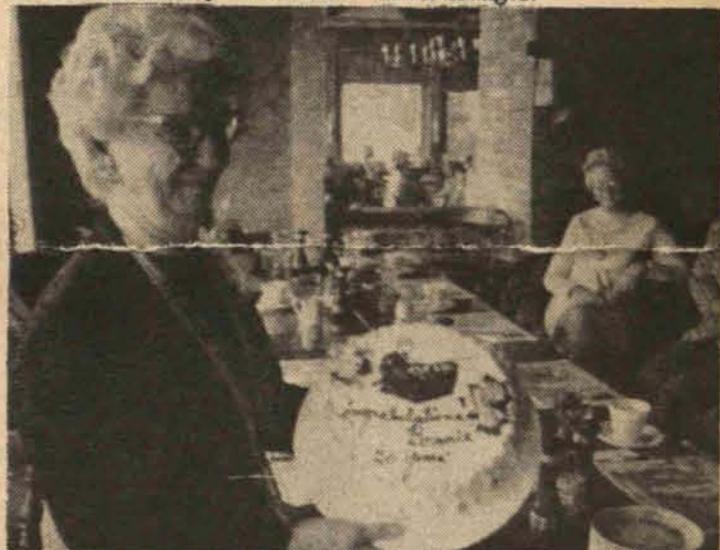
Three shipping periods are scheduled this winter for Florida citrus, says Jim Lincoln, program coordinator and manager of Michigan Certified Farm Markets.

Deadline for county orders is the 15th of the month for January, February and March shipments. Foods will arrive the last week of each month. County chairmen

should alert Mr. Lincoln ahead of time if they are planning an order.

January shipments will include "Florida's Best" navel and temple oranges, pink seedless grapefruit and Mineola tangelos. Hi-density orange concentrate, along with salted-in-shell peanuts and pecan halves will also be included.

February and March shipments will include all of the above except navel oranges.



Bonnie Burkett, Missaukee County secretary, was honored at a recent luncheon for her 20 years of service as county secretary.

# FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: One free 25 word ad per month per membership, additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word NON-MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 13th of Month. Mail classified ads to: Michigan Farm News, P. O. Box 960, Lansing, Mi. 48904 Publisher reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

### FARM EQUIPMENT

WE SELL, ERECT, SERVICE: Smith Silos; Silomatic unloaders and feeding equipment; Schuler bunk feeding boxes; Kasten boxes, blowers and gears. Norman Laursen, Laursens, Inc., West Branch, Michigan 48861 Tel. 517-345-1400. (6-12t-30p)

FOR SALE - "Flying L" horse & stock trailers, gooseneck & flatbeds in stock, 1 1/2 mi. west of Palo. Thomas Read, Fenwick, Mich. 48834, Phone 517-637-4772. (10-tf-25p)

HARLEY ROCK PICKERS. Picks 1 to 16" diameter, dirt free, Rock Windrowers; 10 and 20 feet Earl Reinelt, 4465 Reinelt Rd., Deckerville, Mich. Phone: 313-376-4791. (4-10t-20p)

BRAND NEW AUTOMOTIVE Tune-up Test Kit. Consists of 8 testers, timing light, etc. All in steel carrying case. \$100.00 postpaid. Write for details and picture. Don J. Gridley, Box 746, Mackinaw City, Mich. 49701. (1-1t-35p)

FOR SALE: Bulk milk tank. Groen, 205 gal. stainless steel, 1 1/2 H.P. compressor - reasonable. Henry Buckingham, 3 1/2 mi. east, Eaton Rapids, Mich. Phone 517-663-3763. (1-1t-23p)

### LIVESTOCK

MILKING SHORTHORNS - Young Bulls, yearlings and calves for sale. Write or visit Stanley M. Powell and Family, Ingleside Farm, RR2, Box 238, Ionia, Mich. 48846. (8-tf-25p)

### LIVESTOCK

FOR SALE - 50 Holstein Heifers due base months. Vaccinated. No horns. 25 open Holstein Heifers 750 lbs. 2 Service Bulls. Ed Tanis, Jenison, Mich. Phone (616) 699-9226 (11-3t-25p)

RABBITS - Pedigreed New Zealand whites with top production. "Rabbits are our only business." Dettmers Bunny Patch, Box 109, Garfield Road, Rt. 1, Carson City, Mich. 48811. Phone 517-584-3765. (11-tf-25p)

FOR SALE: 3 Registered Holstein Bulls, Service Age. Records from 17,000-20,000 milk. Sired by Chief, Crusader & Matt. Tested. George Robb, Fowlerville, Phone 517-223-9462. (1-1t-25p)

FOR SALE: English Springer Spaniel puppies. AKC. Excellent hunters and pets. Reasonably priced. Deposit will hold. Write: Route 5, Box 435, Three Rivers, Michigan 49093. (1-2t-25p)

MILKING SHORTHORN BULLS - Registered and Polled of serviceable age. Robert Arnold, Central Lake, phone East Port 616-599-2204. (1-1t-17p)

REGISTERABLE HOLSTEIN BULL. 11 months sire - Paclamar Bootmaker. Dam 37 months old, 17015 milk 601 fat 3.5% \$360. Bill Bamber, 3163 Clyde, Howell, Phone 546-2369. (1-1t-25p)

### LIVESTOCK

REGISTERED POLLED HEREFORD BULLS. Excellent young herd bull prospects, from dams weighing up to 1500 lbs. Call Bellvoix Ranch, Daniel Berg, 616-547-2026, Charlevoix, Mich. (3-tf-24p)

HEREFORD BULLS - pure bred herd sires. Ready for service. Also, registered heifers and calves. Egypt Valley Hereford Farm, 6611 Knapp St., Ada, Michigan. Phone OR 6-1090. (Kent County) (11-tf-25p)

CORRIEDALE SHEEP - Purebred. Breeding stock for sale. Papers optional - also Suffolk - Purebred. Waldo E. Dieterle, 7285 Textile Rd., Saline, Mich. 48176. Phone (313) 429-7874. (8-tf-22p)

### MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: State inspected red clover seed. Available now at Joe Steenwyh, Hudsonville, Michigan. Phone 616-875-8925. (1-1t-16p)

HOMEMADE CHEESE! HARD, SOFT & COTTAGE! Make it yourself! Easy, delicious! Complete instructions! Recipes, \$1.00 Hamilton's Box 233-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (1-1t-20p)

SAUSAGE MAKERS, GREAT RECIPES! Bologna, Frankfurters, Head Cheese, Summer. Blood and Pork Sausage. \$1.00 Hamilton's Box 233-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (1-1t-20p)

### MISCELLANEOUS

WATCH REPAIR any make cleaned, repaired, internal parts, crystals, crowns, included. 3 day shop service, wrist watches \$8.00, pocket \$18.00. No electrics. Elgin train craftsman. Mail order repair since 1953. Free mailer. Hub's Service, 3855 Hopps Road, Elgin Illinois 60120. (6-10t-39p)

FOR SALE - German Shepherd puppies. Beautiful selection. AKC Reg. Krupp's Novelty Shop, Corner M-13 and old M-21, Lennon, Mich. (11-4t-19p)

FOR SALE - 2 1959 Edsels; Station wagon, good condition, 65,000 miles \$375; 4-door sedan restored, both V-8, automatic. Bernal Tolan, R 1 Hillsdale, Mich. Phone 517-287-5183. (11-4t-25p)

COLDWATER DILLPICKLES! Can in minutes! No hot brine. Delicious, Crisp. Factory secrets! Recipe \$1.00. Hamilton's Box 233-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (1-1t-20p)

FORESTRY SERVICES - Appraisals, plans, consultations, investigations relating to timber, shade and Christmas tree problems. Fire and theft losses, marketing. George Blair, Reg. Forester No. 3, 720 S. Durand, Jackson, Mich. Tel. (517) 782-9544. (5-tf-25p)

### MISCELLANEOUS

KODACOLOR FILM DEVELOPED, 12 exp. Roll \$1.50. Cavalier Color, 1265 S. 11th, Niles Mich. (3-12t-12p)

WANTED - Old automobiles, light trucks, motorcycles, any make or condition. Preferably previous to 1930. Harry Farris, 5563 Michael, Bay City, Mich. 48706 Phone: (517) 684-4904. (4-tf-22p)

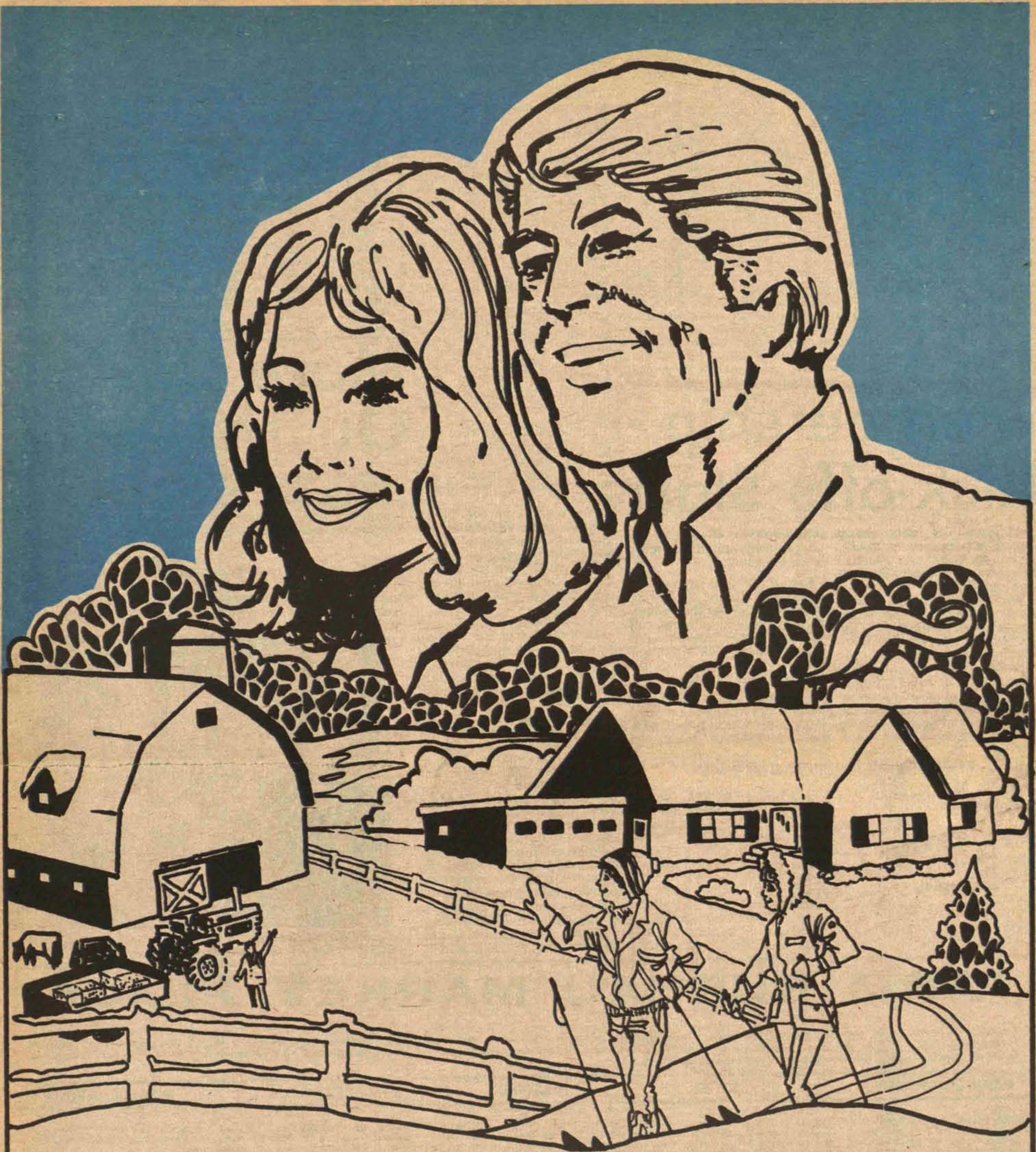
### MONEY MAKING OPPORTUNITIES

EARN AT HOME MAILING OUR CIRCULARS! Experience unnecessary! Send stamped addressed envelope for information. Wright, 949 Broadway, 602-MN4, New York City 10010. (1-tf-25b)

### REAL ESTATE

ACTIVE SENIORS want yearly or six month home or apt. Southern California, near coast or Hawaii. Rental preferred. Reasonable. Kalam, Rt. 1, South Haven 49080. (10-4t-25p)

240 ACRES, Saginaw & Genesee County line, buildings, woods, and tillable land-Land Contract-Call GOSEN REALTY 517-777-8111. (1-1t-18p)



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